WCMC Reports 99

# Analysis of UK implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions
Contract No EPG 3/1/21

## National commitments

Version 3.1 – 1 August 1999

WORLD CONSERVATION
MONITORING CENTRE

# Contents


| | |
|---|---|
| Introduction | i |
| Limitations of the review | i |
| Conclusions | ii |
| Next steps | v |
| Acknowledgements | vi |
| | |
| Article 5 - Cooperation | 1 |
| Article 6 - General measures | 4 |
| Article 7 - Identification and monitoring | 12 |
| Article 8 - *In situ* conservation | 18 |
| Article 8j - indigenous peoples issues | 28 |
| Article 9 - *Ex situ* conservation | 31 |
| Article 10 - Sustainable use | 33 |
| Article 11 - Incentive measures | 36 |
| Article 12 - Research and training | 40 |
| Article 13 - Education and awareness | 43 |
| Article 14 - Impact assessment | 47 |
| Article 15 - Access to genetic resources | 51 |
| Article 16 - Access to technology | 54 |
| Articles 17 and 18 - Information and cooperation | 57 |
| Article 19 - Biotechnology | 62 |
| Article 20 - Financial resources | 64 |
| Article 21 - Financial mechanism | 67 |
| Article 22 - Other international conventions | 68 |
| Article 23 - Conference of the Parties | 71 |
| Article 24 - Secretariat | 73 |
| Article 25 - SBSTTA | 74 |
| Article 26 - Reports | 75 |
| | |
| Decision IV/4 - Inland water ecosystems | 78 |
| Decisions II/10 and IV/5 - Marine and coastal ecosystems | 80 |
| Decisions III/11 and IV/6 - Agricultural biological diversity | 83 |
| Decisions II/9 and IV/7 - Forests | 87 |
| Decision IV/1 [part] - Taxonomy | 89 |
| | |
| List of Abbreviations | 91 |
| Sources | 93 |

# Introduction

The United Kingdom was a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and ratified the Convention in June 1994. So far the UK's ratification has been extended to the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, St Helena (including Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha) and among the Crown Dependencies, Jersey.

Despite the fact that the UK has carried out many actions that implement the Convention and the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, there is no single source of information on what actions have been taken. In order to begin rectifying this situation, DETR has contracted the World Conservation Monitoring Centre to work with UK agencies and organisations in both the government and non-government sectors to assess what is being done or is planned.

The tables that comprise the bulk of the report are based on the Articles of the CBD and the Decisions of each of the four meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The tables are organised by Article, with the relevant Decision or parts of Decisions associated with the most appropriate Article. The Decisions relating to the ecosystem approach follow at the end, along with the specific recommendations on taxonomy and national collections, rather than being split up by Article.

The left hand column of the tables provides an edited version of what Contracting Parties have agreed to do as a consequence of acceding to the Convention, and national commitments implied by COP Decisions. The next two columns in the table are intended to identify what is currently being done and what is being planned with respect to each of the Articles and Decisions. This is necessarily in a brief and summary format. The final column is intended for other relevant information, including a first attempt at identifying gaps, for identifying any areas where a weakness in implementation is suspected, to make recommendations and to report anecdotal comments made during interviews with the various respondents. None of the information in the table is directly sourced, although a list of sources is included at the end of the report. A list of abbreviations used is also provided.

This is only the first step in what will be an ongoing process of analyzing and assessing implementation of the Convention by the UK. This process will aid the UK Government in future implementation of the Convention, and in reporting on implementation both within the UK and internationally. It is hoped that this approach may prove of interest and may also be of value to other countries when preparing their own assessments.

# Limitations of the review

Despite the wide potential impact of the Convention, the time available for completion of this study has been brief. This inevitably means that there will be gaps in the report, specifically:

a) WCMC has not been able to contact all of those whose interests are relevant to implementation of the Convention, and this will lead to gaps in the report with the omission of actions already under way or proposed.

b) In some cases there was insufficient time to follow up with particular contacts to ensure that we understood what they were saying. Also, each submission raised new questions, a number of which we were unable to resolve.

c) While WCMC has tried to incorporate all of the information provided, we have not always been able to allow correspondents to *check what has been drafted* based on their input. Similarly, there has only been limited opportunity for our contacts to check what *other people have written*.

As a result, the column headed "Actions Underway", containing information on what is currently being done, is probably the most complete, while information in the next two columns (concerning actions proposed, and comments made concerning the actions taken and proposed) is comparatively less complete. This may have resulted in a report that is less *evaluative* than it might have been.

It must therefore be recognised that **what is presented here is only the first step in what should become an ongoing process** to review what is being done, to report on the effectiveness of what is being done, and to evaluate what is being done in order to guide and coordinate future action.

# Conclusions

Given the diffuse nature of the obligations under the Convention, the wide range of relevant activities, and the short time available to carry out this review, trying to identify conclusions is perhaps premature. However, a number of observations can be made from the information and comment available to date, and these are offered here as preliminary or provisional conclusions pending further and wider review.

**Conclusions on the review approach**

The matrix that follows provides an overview for the purposes of reporting and getting a "general picture" of what is happening. However, the matrix does not currently encompass the level of detail and objective analysis that would be required to make a complete statement of progress made within the UK towards implementation of the CBD. This is particularly so when one considers that the programmes on inland waters, marine and coastal areas, agrobiodiversity and forest biodiversity appended to various COP Decisions are not specifically covered (they probably each require individual review).

In addition, the matrix does not currently include any systematic analysis of whether the actions being taken are the most appropriate ones for ensuring that the UK is meeting its international obligations, nor is there any systematic attempt to review the effectiveness or efficiency of the actions being undertaken. Both are seen as important steps to take in any future development of the review.

These points being made, the matrix that has been developed so far seems to be generally regarded as a valuable product, despite its obvious and acknowledged shortcomings. Most correspondents are interested in how the results will be used to ensure greater effectiveness in implementation of the Convention by the UK in the future.

It is important to note that the CBD involves commitments at several levels for a developed country such as the UK, and in future reviews it would be sensible to differentiate achievement in the following three levels:

- actions concerning biodiversity within the UK and its Overseas Territories;
- actions concerning biodiversity at the regional level (i.e. within the EU)
- international cooperation by the UK on issues relating to biodiversity conservation including provision of additional resources (financial or otherwise) to support action in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Indeed this could be taken further in order to distinguish actions by the UK Government and other sectors in the following areas:

- actions relevant to biodiversity within the UK;
- actions relevant to biodiversity within the UK Overseas Territories;

- actions as a member of the EU involved in regional biodiversity-related issues;
- actions by the UK as an aid donor;
- actions as a member of the international community involved in processes concerning biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; and
- actions as a major trading nation.

Finally, there is a question as to whether differentiation should be made between actions and activities that explicitly address the CBD and those that do not but that can be interpreted as meeting the objectives of the Convention. Our belief is that **all relevant actions** are important. Thus emphasising the fact that the CBD builds on other initiatives, particularly those multilateral environmental agreements developed in parallel with it, and is an important integrating instrument between these and other environmental agreements.

**Financial information**

Several correspondents suggested that the establishment of financial assessment and reporting mechanisms was a high priority. The idea is that such mechanisms would start to give a real idea of how much money is being invested, by all sectors and at all levels, in activities that address the aims of the CBD. While this seems like a good idea at first sight, it would need a very clear definition of purpose so that we knew what we were trying to achieve, and had clear guidance on what information was required.

For example, if one was trying to provide some of the supporting evidence necessary for effective integration of biodiversity into other sectors, the information required would be very different from that for assessment of how much was being spent on conservation of species. One would also have to be very careful to ensure that some of the UK's major contributions, especially in the areas of research, contributions in kind and maintenance of globally significant institutions, did not fall outside any such accounting.

This is an area where discussion between Contracting Parties on what information to collect and how to present it might be a valuable first step.

**Strategic issues**

The fact that the information presented in this report was not already readily available to the nominated CBD National Focal Point for the UK suggests that approach to CBD implementation within the UK is not particularly strategic in nature, at least in the extent to which it covers the full range of obligations. It also demonstrates that there is currently no monitoring mechanism that ensures ongoing review of the implementation of all obligations.

To a large extent this is a direct result of the nature of the Convention itself. The Convention is wide-ranging, broadly expressed and still evolving, attributes which tend to complicate any efforts that might be made by Contracting Parties to formulate strategic approaches to implementation that take account of all obligations.

However, unless there is a strategic approach to implementation of the full range of obligations, there is a strong possibility that some obligations will be overlooked and that actions undertaken will not be as well coordinated as they might be. Also, unless there is a programme to monitor implementation of the Convention, there is only limited opportunity for review and adjustment of activities, and reporting is a more difficult process than it might otherwise be.

It is therefore suggested that, despite the apparent difficulties, the development of a more strategic approach to implementation within the UK is probably needed. It is beyond the scope of this project to

...

define the exact nature of such an approach, but it should clearly be closely linked to both the action planning process and to any monitoring mechanism or ongoing review of activities, including periodic reporting processes.

**Keeping our own house in order**

It is clear from the tables that the actions taken to implement Articles 6, 7 and 8 are substantial, and cover in one way or another the majority of what is necessary. There are concerns about improving coordination and focus in several areas, and more general concerns about inadequate financial resources, but these concerns are all based on building on the significant achievements already made.

The development of the Biodiversity Action Plan and the associated local biodiversity action plans is seen by many to be exemplary, and the development of species and habitat action plans has led to some real achievements. A new partnership approach is developing, and more resources are becoming available. However, there are also concerns, and attention needs to be paid to these. For example, the resources available for implementation of many of these plans fall short of what is required and it is not clear where these resources are to come from. A far more significant concern, however, is the suggestion made by several key correspondents that concentration on the individual species and habitat action plans has tended to result in insufficient focused attention being paid to other commitments within the CBD, and even to some of the other actions identified within the Biodiversity Action Plan itself.

Although only a limited number of respondents have been consulted, there is clearly a general feeling that more attention needs to be placed on development of a more integrated ecosystem or landscape approach to biodiversity conservation action within the UK. Such an approach would be more closely related to the full range of biodiversity issues than the action to date which has concentrated on protected areas (although many action plans foresee action in the wider countryside). Of significant importance in this regard are planning legislation and regulations, and the effective use of incentives (and removal of disincentives).

**Building on strengths**

There are several areas where the UK is a world leader, or at least one of the leaders. This is especially so in several aspects of the implementation of Article 9 and to a large extent Article 12. UK institutions such as the Natural History Museum, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh have undoubted international credentials and actively support work in a number of countries around the world. A number of UK universities have very strong programmes of research in the area of biodiversity and development issues. The British Council is very active in helping to promote access to such expertise.

**Implications of devolution**

Another area that requires careful consideration and ongoing review is the process of devolution of responsibility within the UK and the effect that this will have on national implementation of the Convention. For example, the changes may have the effect of making a nationwide strategic approach to implementation problematic, yet the UK Government has an obligation to ensure implementation.

**Integration into all sectors**

One area of concern to most correspondents is the integration of biodiversity into all sectors. Actions such as the "Greening of Government" represent a major step in the right direction, and increased media attention to biodiversity issues reflects a growing interest within the nation at large. However it is recognised that progress in exercises such as the "Greening of Government" is very difficult to

assess in any meaningful way. They are also exercises that need regular reinforcing to lend weight to their message or because of changes in staff.

The importance of organisational or company action plans is clear in this regard, as they will provide a statement of intent which can be used as a basis for measuring progress. The development of such plans should be regarded as a priority, with the process of development being as important as the final delivery of the strategy itself. The other key issue in this area is the development of appropriately structured incentive schemes, and the removal of disincentives – this is a priority area for further review and action. In both cases there is a basis for assessment of progress, and the development of mechanisms for assessing the extent to which integration is occurring should be regarded as a priority.

This is another unifying element within the UK as a whole, and an area in which the CBD National Focal point might have a significant ongoing role.

**UK within Europe**

There are several areas where the tables suggest that reform or adjustment of EU policies may be necessary in order to ensure more effective implementation of the CBD. This is suggested for both the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy, for example. In fact, as is noted, the UK Government is already taking a number of the necessary steps to ensure that appropriate issues are raised in future negotiations; this initial work needs to be built on further in the future to ensure harmony between the CBD and EU policies.

**International agreements**

The UK participates actively in a wide range of international agreements and programmes, a substantial number of which are relevant to implementation of the CBD. Integration of action undertaken to meet the obligations of a range of different agreements and programmes is a key issue for many national governments, and is an area in which the UK Government has taken an interest. The potential should be explored for the CBD National Focal Point to play a stronger role in facilitating harmonization of activities within the UK, to help ensure synergy and reduce duplication in the actions being undertaken.

A second issue here is the role of the UK in world trade, and in discussions and negotiations on the relationship between the obligations of the CBD and of the multilateral trade system. It is not possible to draw hard and fast conclusions about this relationship at this stage. It will require close monitoring in the context of the accommodation of multilateral environmental agreements within the trade system.

# Next steps

Assuming that our interpretations are correct, we recommend that DETR should take the following action, building on the work presented in this report. This action should probably be initiated sooner rather than later, building on the good will that appears to have been generated amongst many of those who have been asked to contribute.

a) Use the report as a basis for further action. This might include:
   - further development of the report itself, building on experiences gained during its production, leading to a more thorough, cross-sectoral review of action being undertaken by the UK in implementing the Convention

- extension of the report to more systematically review the efficiency and effectiveness of the actions being undertaken, and whether these actions are sufficient to full implementation of the Convention
- more extensive review of the contents of the report, perhaps through meetings with various stakeholder groups such as NGOs, the commercial sector, other Government departments, and so on

b) Use the framework developing in the report, and the material provided by correspondents, as the basis for developing a more strategic approach to implementation of the Convention by the UK.

c) Use the report as a basis for future national reporting on implementation of the Convention by the UK (while noting that the national reporting format would depend on the reporting requirements and the subsequent COP Decisions). This report's current structure helps clarify the obligations entered into and how these relate to the overall aims of the Convention, so providing a clear statement of action that relates both to obligations and information that is required by the CBD National Focal Point in ensuring that those obligations are being acted upon (see below).

d) Use the report as a basis for developing an information management system that will facilitate ongoing review of implementation of the Convention by the UK, refining the information gathering process and presentation format appropriately. For example, the contents of the report could be provided on the Internet in such a manner that identified individuals could regularly add material, so providing an ongoing record of activity.

The UK Government is working with the CBD Secretariat and WCMC to develop a pilot project on the development of *CBD Implementation Measures* that also involves a number of other Contracting Parties including Canada, Ecuador, Finland, Indonesia, Malawi, Norway, Seychelles and Slovenia. This project is using the same list of obligations (the first column in the tables) as a basis, and will hopefully influence the future of national reporting. A summary of this report was therefore made available to the CBD Secretariat, the National Focal Points of the countries and anyone else involved in the *CBD Implementation Measures* project. It is hoped that the report and experience gained in its production would be of interest for other parties to the Convention as they report on their own CBD implementation measures.

# Acknowledgements

Information compiled in this report has been received from many sources, all of which are listed in the *sources* section at the end of the report. The support and cooperation of all individuals listed has been tremendous, and we have tried carefully to reflect what has been said, despite the fact that on a number of occasions there have been significant differences of opinion. Notwithstanding this excellent input, all errors of fact and omission are the responsibility of the authors.

Material has been compiled on behalf of WCMC by Alistair Taylor and Jeremy Harrison, with the support of John Busby and Tim Johnson during the interview process. The project was supervised by Jeremy Harrison for WCMC and Valerie Richardson for DETR.

# Article 5 - Cooperation

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Article 5. Cooperation* | | | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cooperate with other Contracting Parties, directly, or through competent international organizations, in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction and on other matters of mutual interest | The UK actively collaborates with other Governments bilaterally and as part of the process of implementing this and other international agreements and programmes. This includes the UK commitments within the European Union (e.g. Birds and Habitats Directives, PEBLDS), under the Antarctic Treaty, UNCLOS, OSPAR, Bonn Convention and so on. Some of these activities cover the global commons (high seas and Antarctica).<br><br>The UK itself has established schemes to build relationships with other countries, such as the various British Council activities, and supports countries with resources (for example through the DFID aid programmes and the Darwin Initiative) and other in kind support.<br><br>Northern Ireland is actively developing cooperative arrangements with the Republic of Ireland, the only Contracting Party with whom the UK shares a land boundary, and the UK is collaborating with other European countries on marine fisheries issues through the CFP (discussed further below).<br><br>Scotland is cooperating with Nordic countries possessing similar environments, under the Biodiversity 2000 initiative. | The UK has usually played an active in the development of international agreements, and in working as part of international programmes. This includes working with international organizations. It is assumed that the UK will continue to do so.<br><br>Continue to cooperate in appropriate areas, building on and strengthening established links and seeking out new opportunities while avoiding duplication of effort.<br><br>Continue to participate in the ongoing revision of the IUPGFRA, supporting efforts to harmonize with the CBD and to establish a multilateral system of access and benefit sharing for PGFRA. | The UK plays an important role both multilaterally and bilaterally in the development of international agreements and programmes, and therefore plays a key role in ensuring that appropriate environmental checks and balances are included in these instruments.<br><br>The marine environment presents opportunities for further cooperation in that the objectives of the CBD for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use have yet to be achieved.<br><br>One area of international cooperation that is now receiving attention but probably justifies greater concern is the impact of trade liberalisation on biodiversity. The UK Government view is that international agreements on trade and environment issues should be developed in a complementary way. However, the issues and interactions are complex, require further study and need to be kept under careful review.<br><br>The UK should take steps to quantify its "ecological footprint", and identify how it is affecting biodiversity and sustainable use in other parts of the world. See RIIA workshop on Sustainability Footprints, November 1999.<br><br>Cooperation could be greatly improved with other EU members if there were greater coordination and/or integration of action between the EC Directorates General an coherence in their policies, and a strategy for cooperation between the EC and OSPAR. The EC Biodiversity Strategy is a first step in this process, but needs to be taken further. The UK Government and other UK bodies might take an active interest in furthering this process. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision IV/1. Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA, and instructions by the COP to SBSTTA* [PART]** | | | |
| Suggests that Government members of OECD should endorse and support the recommendations for the OECD Megascience Forum's Biodiversity Informatics Subgroup on development of a Global Biodiversity Informatics Facility | The UK has played an active role within the OECD Megascience Forum, and has expressed interest in hosting the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. NHM has been designated as a Megascience facility, reflecting its international importance. | The UK is actively involved in the decision-making process concerning the OECD Megascience Forum and the UK's potential role within it. | The UK should help to ensure that the programme for developing GBIF is closely aligned to the needs of the CBD, and effectively links to other related international initiatives. |

# Article 6 - General measures

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 6. General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use*** | | | |
| Develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity | The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was published in 1994, and provides a programme of work for a 20-year period. It is extremely wide-ranging within and beyond the field of conservation. Its overall goal is to conserve and restore biological diversity within the UK, and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms. The UK Biodiversity Group is responsible for facilitating and promoting implementation as well as advising government generally and troubleshooting. Under the UKBAP numerous Local Biodiversity Action Plans, Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans have been produced.<br><br>As a result of devolution (biodiversity is a devolved area) strategies, plans and programmes are being developed by separate bodies in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The process of development for each Country's strategy is different, reflecting the priorities, institutional arrangements and environments.<br><br>The UK has actively encouraged the development of the EC biodiversity strategy, published in 1998, and is actively participating in the implementation of the Pan-European Biological Diversity and Landscape Strategy. | There is an ongoing review of the implementation of the BAP involving all major stakeholders (Millennium Biodiversity Report). This will be published in 2000, and may well be the first major review of a national action plan developed in the context of the CBD.<br><br>Complete the publication of species and habitat action plans for the UK, and report on the implementation of all action plans as part of the BAP review process mentioned above.<br><br>Continue to implement EC legal instruments and policies relevant to the conservation of biological diversity, while supporting DGXI in increasing the coordination of biodiversity-relevant information and action through the EC biodiversity strategy and the development of sectoral action plans.<br><br>Encourage those UK Overseas Territories that have not yet done so to accede to the CBD (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn Island, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands). | The UK's focus on action planning has led to a certain disconnectedness at the strategic level. LBAPs have been instrumental in ensuring that local authorities incorporate biodiversity into their structure, local plans and development controls. However there is also a concern that LBAPs run the risk of becoming a subset of National BAPs by focusing on national aspects/species rather than focusing on locally important aspects/species.<br><br>Currently the action plans and their delivery are based largely on a voluntary partnership basis supported by government policy. There is a case for considering legislative support and enforcement, as has been suggested by the Wildlife and Countryside Link NGO coalition.<br><br>The status of the UK's ecosystems reflects long term human intervention. Maintaining their current diversity requires a continuation of this interventionism, e.g. forests that are logged in an appropriate manner have diverse age structures and stand structures that are biodiversity friendly (see new Forestry Standard).<br><br>At such an early stage it is difficult to predict how devolution will affect how biodiversity conservation is addressed in the policies of the newly devolved governments, or how a UK overview of action and needs will be maintained. Any developments in this important area should be closely monitored. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Within the programmes identified here, sustainable use is not a major element, and greater integration may be required between action under the biodiversity conservation "umbrella" and that under the sustainable development umbrella.<br><br>Notwithstanding these comments, there are many significant initiatives under way at UK, national and local levels. These will need to be kept under review to ensure that they harmonize and are ultimately effective. This may require review of the relationship between the recommendations in the various action plans. |
| Integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies | The BAP was developed as a partnership of the main players in the UK. Consultation has been thorough and integration is a goal. Similarly LBAPs aim to integrate such concepts at the local level (hopefully building on national BAP and SAP targets).<br><br>Anglian Water is creating its own Action Plan, for nature conservation based on the UKBAP.<br><br>The Highways Agency is preparing its own corporate biodiversity action plan.<br><br>Limited but expanding action is being taken by the private sector.<br><br>The land-use planning system is intended to take account of the environmental implications of land-use decisions, including their potential impacts on biodiversity. However, decisions are largely taken on a local basis, and there is currently no strategic element.<br><br>The UK emphasizes the "greening" of Government as a whole, overseen by the Environmental Audit Committee which | Review legislation, policy and guidelines to bring local planning decisions in line with the commitments of LBAPs, providing the LBAPs have been developed as part of a fully consultative process.<br><br>Encourage development of sectoral BAPs (Highways agency, Water Companies, Railtrack).<br><br>Revise, clarify and tighten guidance on how nature conservation should be taken into account in planning policies and decisions (set out in PPG9 for England, PPS2 for Northern Ireland and work is in progress on the NAPG on Natural Heritage and PAN on Biodiversity in Scotland).<br><br>Continue to integrate biodiversity into other policy areas and sectors through the "greening" of Government and through the BAP. Also integrate biodiversity into Local Agenda 21 via LBAPs.<br><br>Following devolution in Wales, Northern | The action plans themselves are reasonably sound but implementation of them can be much weaker, often as a result of inadequate resources.<br><br>The encouragement of sectoral BAPs is timely and welcome, providing these build on existing action plans and incorporate real and measurable targets.<br><br>While consultation is taking place on a large scale, and attempts are being made to integrate biodiversity into all relevant policy areas, there is still a long way to go before real integration is achieved. This process will be supported by the development of sectoral action plans.<br><br>The first UK national report to the CBD acknowledges the lack of genuine integration of biodiversity concerns across Government. While improvements have undoubtedly been achieved, there is still much to be done before "greening of Government" can be said to have been achieved. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | scrutinizes the policies and programmes of all Government Departments and assesses their contribution to environmental protection and sustainable development.<br><br>For example the Forestry Commission, as a government department, seeks to achieve a reasonable balance between its statutory duty under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (the production of timber), and conservation. Its commitment to conservation is set out in the UK Forestry Standard and put into effect through its own practices, through the incentive schemes it operates and through the guidelines it issues.<br><br>The UK Government continues to press for more sustainable EU Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies (CAP, CFP).<br><br>The Environment City programme coordinated by the Wildlife Trusts aims to put sustainable development into practice in UK towns and cities. The programme provides a framework to try out new concepts, and facilitates the sharing of experience. A key part of the process is the partnerships built between local authorities, businesses, universities and voluntary groups. | Ireland and Scotland, the "greening of Government" is to become the responsibility of the new assemblies.<br><br>In England, the Countryside Agency was established in April 1999 through a merger of the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Commission. The new body will focus on the social, economic and environmental health of the countryside. Much of the first year of operation will be spent in reviewing the future of the countryside and the agencies role in shaping it. | Biodiversity is such an all-pervasive issue that virtually all sectors have some effect on its conservation and sustainable use. The result of this is that much CBD-relevant activity is not acknowledged within the framework of the Convention, either nationally or internationally.<br><br>Biodiversity is a crucially important element of sustainable development. As such it should be considered and treated as an integrated component of sustainable development rather than a separable stand-alone issue. This would seem to contradict the way in which sustainable development was compartmentalised into separate conventions at Rio.<br><br>The difficulties encountered in reaching consensus over and agreeing estuary management plans are indications of the problems of getting agreement and reconciling widely differing interests. Estuaries are a good example of areas where such widely differing interests are brought into close proximity with one another. |
| ***Decision II/7. Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention*** | | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urges all Parties and Governments and other interested stakeholders to exchange relevant information and share experience on measures taken for the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 | First UK National Report is primarily aimed at the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 and the sharing of information appropriate to these articles.<br><br>Within the UK, the sharing of experience has been particularly important in the preparation of the existing 100+ local and regional action plans. For example, the Wildlife Trusts, in conjunction with DETR, have produced a series of guidance notes and case studies on LBAPs and a general biodiversity leaflet.<br><br>UK processes of implementation have been very open with participation encouraged and outside access to information facilitated. | Build on previous experiences and refine the information sharing process so as to derive most benefit from lessons learnt in this area.<br><br>Continue work on NBN and on Local Record Centres, including new 'recorder' software. | It is important to share the British experience on the action planning process with other CBD Contracting Parties. The UK's BAP was developed early on, and the UK has significant experience in the development of local action plans, and action plans for species and habitats.<br><br>Within the UK, the voluntary sector is generally fairly good at sharing information, and passing copies of reports to other appropriate agencies and organizations. In the past the intergovernmental, **intra**governmental and quasi-government sectors have not been as good at this as the voluntary sector organizations would have wished. This is at least in part a resourcing issue, and is being met by the increased use of the Internet to increase the accessibility of information. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stresses the importance of regional and international cooperation for the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 | The UK collaborates with other European countries in the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Pan-European Biological Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). E.g. the UK made a joint proposal with the Dutch to host a meeting concerning the relationship between PEBLDS and the CBD prior to COP-5.<br><br>The UK collaborates with other NE Atlantic and North Sea states through OSPAR and the Committee of North Sea Senior Officials (CONSSO).<br><br>The UK also collaborates in the sharing of information in Europe through the EEA and EIONET.<br><br>The UK is committed to a variety of International conservation efforts (e.g. Pan European Forestry Process, CITES, Bonn Convention) which are reflected in its national plans and strategies (e.g. UK Forestry Standard).<br><br>The Forestry Commission is involved in information exchange and research with Eastern European countries, and with Nordic countries through Biodiversity 2000.<br><br>Cooperation is a key element of Darwin Initiative funded projects. | Continue to cooperate with other EU countries and to support work towards integration of biodiversity into Brussels policy via EC strategy. | Again the importance of integration and coherence of EU policies is key (for example the integration of finance, environment and fisheries policies).<br><br>Membership of international and regional organizations is also important, such as the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the EUROPARC Federation and Eurosite in the protected areas field.<br><br>Many organizations in both the government and non-government sectors have working links with similar organizations in other countries, for example the National Trust and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. This sort of direct collaboration is very valuable and should be recognized and encouraged. Governmental promotion and encouragement of such links can only help to foster international cooperation in this area and other areas of the Convention. |
| Encourages Parties, in preparing and implementing their national strategies and action plans, to collaborate with relevant organizations and to take into consideration existing guidelines such as *National Biodiversity Planning* published by UNEP, WRI and IUCN | Development of the BAP was carried out in collaboration with interested parties within the UK.<br><br>The UK was prompt in preparing its action plan , however the *National Biodiversity Planning* was not available at the time and the advice of international organizations was not explicitly sought. | | There are groups who feel that they were not fully consulted in the initial BAP process. Whatever the reason, this needs to be addressed as the BAP process develops further. Given the importance of this process there is an indisputable need to keep all existing groups involved and include previously excluded, new and emerging organisations. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stresses the need for Parties to ensure the cross-border coordination of their respective strategies, on a bilateral as well as on a regional basis | The UK Biodiversity Steering Group coordinates implementation between the England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (e.g. Northern Ireland and Scotland are both developing their own strategies within the overall context of the UK biodiversity strategy to reflect their different circumstances and environments).<br><br>Northern Ireland, which is the only part of the UK to share a land boundary with another Party, is involved in close cross-border cooperation with the Republic of Ireland. The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, currently under development, highlights the need for such links, currently established at an informal and operational level.<br><br>Scotland is a member of Biodiversity 2000 – The Northern Europe Initiative. | | The UK's only land boundary shared with another state is between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Lessons learnt in developing close cross-border links between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland indicate the particular value of informal peer networks, where operational "on the ground" staff were collaborating before there was political will or an official mandate for them to do so.<br><br>There are concerns that as power in the UK is devolved, coordination may become more difficult, particularly between the country agencies. Sufficient mechanisms need to be in place to ensure the necessary coordination |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urges Parties to include in their national plans or strategies and legislation measures for the conservation of biological diversity (both in situ and ex situ), integration of biological diversity objectives in relevant sectoral policies, and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources | A significant body of conservation legislation is already in place, both UK legislation (e.g. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) and EU legislation (e.g. Birds Directive and Habitats Directive).<br><br>The Government provides advice and incentives to encourage protection and enhancement of wildlife through agri-environment schemes such as ESAs and Countryside Stewardship. | The Government recognizes that the 1981 act needs to be reviewed, and has a manifesto commitment to introduce new legislation. It seems increasingly unlikely that this will be included in the 1999 Queen's speech.<br><br>"Greening" of government policy and the integration of environmental concerns into other relevant sectoral policies is a key aim.<br><br>Further resources have been made available following a CSR for agri-environment schemes and conservation agencies.<br><br>Continue work on the implementation of the published action plans for 350 priority species and 24 priority habitats. Also continue the preparation of further outstanding action plans and local biodiversity action plans, setting up the National Biodiversity Network, and separate strategies covering public awareness and education for the key sectors and institutions of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. | It has been suggested that current legislation does not provide an adequate basis for fulfillment of the UK's CBD and EU commitments.<br><br>There are also conflicts and gaps in existing marine and coastal regulations to enable the requirements of the CBD to be implemented.<br><br>It is perhaps not clear enough what steps are actually being taken to "green" government, and how these are being assessed and adjusted over time. Green Ministers: plan to publish the first report on Greening Government in summer 1999. The Environment Audit Committee published a report on the Greening Government Initiative in November 1998. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourages all Parties to set measurable targets in order to achieve biological diversity conservation and sustainable use objectives | The BAP contains 59 broad targets. Biodiversity Group reports, habitat, species and biodiversity action plans and LBAPs set a host of more realistic, costed and sometimes site-specific targets.<br><br>Of the 59 broad targets, approximately 8 concern forestry and these are further developed in Sustainable Forestry, the UK Programme and in the UK's Forestry Standard. | Continue the process of developing and implementing appropriate means to achieve the 59 broad targets whilst reviewing the effectiveness and suitability of the 59 targets themselves (e.g. ease of communication). To be addressed in Millennium Biodiversity Report, 2000. | The 59 broad targets are perhaps not targets at all but policy goals. This is different to setting true biological targets and the 59 targets should be reviewed and stepped down into achievable policy "milestones". More work is needed to develop quality based habitat targets, especially for the marine environment.<br><br>Indeed, the existing broad targets vary quite significantly in the level of detail and their measurability. In a sense some are activities rather than targets or objectives. It is anticipated that the review process underway will result in a more homogenous approach. It is important to identify what procedures should be followed when targets are not being met.<br><br>The species and habitat action plans have been a real achievement, and the targets within them have been instrumental in building partnerships and locating resources in a number of incidences. There are concerns however, that the emphasis placed on these action plans has tended to eclipse many of the broader targets in the BAP, which have therefore not received the appropriate attention. |

# Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 7. Identification and Monitoring*** | | | |
| Identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use | A summary assessment of the status and trends from the BAP is found in the National Report. This is based on a significant though not comprehensive body of information collected in the UK over many years, and forms part of the product of a variety of past and current programmes (e.g. native woodlands surveys and the new "Web of life" taxonomy strategy developed by NHM).<br><br>Work is underway on developing the concept of biogeographical zones for use in this area. Monitoring schemes such as Countryside Survey 2000 and the NCMS will also have an input and will also provide information on trends of change.<br><br>The NE Atlantic quality status reports, which are currently available in draft format, work towards identifying the information and knowledge gaps. | Continue with programmes and address gaps in knowledge through appropriate survey and research programmes where practicable.<br><br>A NERC project has been established to investigate soil biota and processes, addressing one of the known gaps in understanding<br><br>The EEA's ETC/NC is developing EUNIS, a European Nature Information System to document habitats, species and designated sites and support reporting on Europe's biodiversity and the implementation of the EU Natura 2000 network. It is intended that this will lead to a distributed information system based on the EEA's EIONET. | Although current understanding of the state of biodiversity in the UK is not complete, it has been adequate for most of the programmes currently underway. Where gaps in knowledge exist, extrapolations from existing knowledge have been made so that work can progress.<br><br>However, work on a range of species action plans have revealed that assumptions about abundance have not always been correct, and serious gaps in other areas of knowledge do exist, particularly in microorganisms, soil organisms and the offshore environment.<br><br>Current research priorities are often set in response to external demand or continue to follow patterns established in the past. Resource constraints severely inhibit the filling of gaps, especially in "unfashionable" invertebrate or microorganism groups. The "Global Taxonomic Impediment", identified as a major constraint on the implementation of the CBD (e.g. Decision IV/1), applies in the UK as elsewhere, although identification guides and expertise is generally sufficient to meet UK domestic needs in relation to most groups of macro-organisms. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Monitor components of biological diversity, paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation measures or which offer the greatest potential for sustainable use | A wide range of programmes for long-term monitoring of species, habitats and sites have been established by scientific and management bodies. The BAP process has identified those species considered to require urgent conservation action. The use of volunteers in these programmes is widespread.<br><br>The Common Standards Monitoring programmes set up by the country agencies and JNCC monitors the status of features of interest in notified sites against defined objectives in site management.<br><br>A programme for long term monitoring of land use and ecological changes in the wider countryside (Countryside 2000) has been established by DETR, NERC and the EHS (NI). A Northern Ireland Countryside survey was first carried out in stages between 1986 and 1991.<br><br>The Environmental Change Network of sites established by NERC and others is aimed at assessing long-term change in habitat and species distribution.<br><br>The Forestry Commission operates a National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees, which provides a rolling programme of sampling across the UK. | Further development and application of indicators of biodiversity, further cooperation with SBSTTA and the use of DIVERSITAS inputs.<br><br>A sampling framework is being promoted by JNCC in consultation with DETR to encourage greater coherence of monitoring activity.<br><br>The results of a national monitoring project, Countryside Survey 2000, will feed into the development of an integrated monitoring scheme for Great Britain, partly based on remote sensing methods. Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland are funding a survey to be carried out in parallel with CS2000 in 1998. The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey Link project has been initiated to coordinate linking the two programmes of work with the intention of producing a UK report to common standards. The project will provide UK statistics on widespread habitats, linear landscape features, land cover and vegetation.<br><br>The NBN will also have a role to play in this area. | The many detailed monitoring methods in use in the UK may not necessarily be focused on the objectives of this Article. They are conducted on different components in different areas and on different timescales and do not, *in toto*, comprise a coherent national monitoring strategy. Efforts to increase integration should be encouraged.<br><br>Note that several different definitions of monitoring are implied by the various actions listed.<br><br>Volunteers play an important role in many of the monitoring schemes currently underway in the UK, and the value of this input should not be under-estimated.<br><br>Although much knowledge about biological processes has been generated through monitoring, the methods in use tend to be resource intensive. Such monitoring methods are not necessarily cost-effective. Rapid monitoring techniques, which can take advantage of advances in remote sensing technologies, represent a potentially cheap and practical alternative. However these are currently at an early stage of development in the UK.<br><br>EEA will be assessing the data needs for the monitoring of favourable conservation status on EU sites designated for the Natura 2000 network. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Identify processes and categories of activities which have adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects | A summary assessment of threats was made when the BAP was developed, and this is reproduced in the National Report.<br><br>In practice the individual UK sectoral agencies are responsible for assessing and dealing with threats as they arise. | Evaluate the quality of the assessment that has already been made during the Millennium Biodiversity Report review process, and revise or update the overview of threats according to the results of ongoing research as appropriate. | Although some gaps in knowledge exist, they do not represent a bar to action. Addressing known threats and monitoring their effects may be a more profitable exercise than seeking to catalogue new ones.<br><br>Various EU policies, and international trade policies are felt by some to be posing threats in some areas. The UK needs to continue to take action both in negotiations that will ease potential threats, and to ensure mitigation of the effects of the existing policies (both at home and abroad). An example of this is the UK's commitment to the "Partnership for Integration" strategy, for integrating the environment into European Union Policies, put forward by the Commission at the European Council held in Cardiff in 1998.<br><br>Many industries based in the UK or with major offices in the UK have the potential to significantly affect the environment. These industries could be encouraged to take an active interest in sharing information on potential threats and impacts, and actions that can be taken to mitigate them, in the spirit of assisting nations in the implementation of this Article of the CBD.<br><br>It is worth noting that within the UK there are a number of non-government organizations that are very active in identifying threats to biodiversity and the environment, and campaigning in a targeted manner to alert both government and the general public.<br><br>In practice, large and obvious one-off threats are rather easier to deal with that smaller chronic effects. For example, regular reviews of SSSIs show that a number are damaged each year by a range of effects, and a relatively high proportion are reported to be in an unfavourable condition, due mainly to inappropriate land and water management. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maintain and organize data derived from identification and monitoring activities | One of the tasks of the UK Biodiversity Group is to improve the accessibility and coordination of existing biological datasets.<br><br>It is intended that the NBN, a partnership of local and national custodians of wildlife information, under the coordination of the JNCC, will draw on information from a wide range of databases and sources. Currently the JNCC itself and the Environment Agency have contributed datasets towards the NBN. Other institutions holding significant datasets are also involved.<br><br>The Biodiversity Information Service is also facilitating work on development of common standards for recording. | Continue with ongoing work. First datasets on the NBN will be on-line to users via the Internet in 1999. The NBN will be progressively developed over the next 2-3 years. Parallel to this work is the sourcing of external funding, the target being to attract a major new partner each year.<br><br>Local record centres, linked in to the national data sets, are to be established under the NBN. The Wildlife Trusts will be particularly involved in working for an effective network of local record centres, reflecting the important role they play in local recording and monitoring schemes. | Although elements of NBN are being developed by its consortium partners, it is currently hampered by lack of major coordinated funding. This programme is of national importance, and should be funded accordingly.<br><br>Lack of detailed guidance from the CBD and potential duplication with other international efforts is considered a problem by some.<br><br>Promoting a more access-friendly attitude among custodians of biological datasets is considered important. While many institutions are willing to respond, limited time and resources dictate the priority-setting process.<br><br>While data collection has been an important and valuable exercise, at what stage does the use of that data to construct an overall picture of biodiversity or to engage stakeholders take priority over it? |
| ***Decision III/10. Identification, monitoring and assessment*** | | | |
| Recommends that Parties consider a step-by-step approach to the implementation of Article 7, paying attention to the indicative list of categories of important components of biological diversity set out in Annex I of the Convention, beginning with identification of important components of biological diversity and the processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity | The BAP recommends this approach. The "59 steps" include the production of complete habitat classifications (which has been done), the development of cost-effective monitoring and assessment methodologies, and the marshaling of the UK's information resources.<br><br>JNCC is working on Biodiversity Profiles for all the UK's Overseas Territories, which can form a basis for future action planning. | Continue with the implementation of Article 7, seeking a balance between the need to address gaps in knowledge and the need for action. | Some uncertainty exists about the terminology used by the CBD itself and how this translates into practical action e.g. "monitoring", "assessment" and "identification". Indeed, different stakeholders have different perspectives on the components of biodiversity set out in Annex I of the CBD. There is a need for the CBD to harmonize vocabularies and agree on the attributes used to characterize habitats and ecosystems. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urges Parties to identify indicators of biological diversity and to develop innovative methods of implementing Article 7 as a high priority, with particular reference to the value of rapid biological diversity assessment approaches and the role of remote sensing as a tool for monitoring | The UK has developed a set of "headline indicators" of sustainable development, 7 of which relate to the environment and one of which is a biodiversity indicator.<br><br>More detailed indicators for agriculture and other sectors are also being developed.<br><br>A substantial amount of biodiversity monitoring is already taking place. Many of the habitat and species action plans developed incorporate innovative indicator methods. Countryside Survey 2000 is using satellite imagery coupled with a field survey of habitats to provide a comprehensive audit of the British countryside.<br><br>Monitoring schemes developed prior to the CBD are still in place and continue to provide valuable information. E.g. The National Countryside Monitoring Scheme (NCMS) initiated in 1983, now provides a systematic study of land cover change for Scotland that can quantify such things as agricultural intensification, and is used for environmental audit and reporting<br><br>Rapid biodiversity assessment methods are being developed by various UK institutions (e.g. NHM).<br><br>Forestry Commission management practices are evolving to become more biodiversity-friendly even though sophisticated monitoring procedures are not yet in place. Reliance is instead placed on statistical data such as age structure and total forested area.<br><br>EC supported trials of marine monitoring techniques are currently underway with results due to be published in 2000/01. | Further development and application on indicators of biodiversity is planned. Monitoring procedures for protected sites, using an indicator approach, will be intensively trialed and tested. Efforts are also to be focused on developing a second tier of indicators under the "headline indicators" and on the scientific basis supporting these indicators.<br><br>EEA is preparing its first Yearly Indicator Report for publication at the end of 1999. As part of this preparation, ETC/NC held an EIONET workshop on biodiversity indicators in April 1999, and has proposed a set of indicators of wetland ecosystem pressures, status and trends to contribute to the 1999 theme on water. | The scientific basis of indicators is not yet fully established, and any information based on use of indicators needs to acknowledge this.<br><br>Much work remains to be done in developing and refining indicator programmes. This needs to include identification and development of reference level information, assessment of the cumulative effects, and ways of presenting and using the resulting information.<br><br>Meanwhile, approaches to the use of indicators should probably be pragmatic and practical rather than totally scientifically rigorous.<br><br>To date the UK has not addressed the need to develop an understanding of its "footprint" on global biodiversity. An RIIA workshop on Sustainability Footprints is planned for November 1999. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calls on Parties to cooperate on a voluntary pilot project to demonstrate the use of successful assessment and indicator methodologies | OECD is working on methods of developing robust indicators. | Continue work in OECD. | Consideration could be given to the development of a pilot project on marine areas permanently closed to consumptive use, so as to be able to research the effects of human activities on offshore biodiversity. |
| Calls on Parties to prepare reports on experiences on the application of assessment methodologies and results from assessments and to disseminate these reports by appropriate mechanisms such as the clearing-house mechanism | The UK National Report contains limited information on experiences in this area. In fact UK agencies and specialist non-governmental organizations have significant experience in this area, and many reports that may be of relevance to other Contracting Parties. We are not aware of any actions under way to increase access to this information, although it is likely to be one of the roles of the UK CHM. | User access is to be facilitated via appropriate mechanisms e.g. the placing of information on methodologies of biodiversity assessments on the UK CHM website during 1999. | Given the extensive amount of experience in the UK on this and other practical issues, both published and unpublished, increasing access to information on case studies and best practice ought to be a priority. |
| Recommends to Parties that they explore ways to make taxonomic information housed in collections world-wide readily available, in particular to countries of origin | The UK is one of very few countries where collecting institutions hold tens of millions of specimens from around the world. Actions are under way to make taxonomic information from their collections available, although resource availability is a constraint (Government is a significant funding source for such efforts).<br><br>The UK Systematics Forum has proposed a strategy (the Web Of Life) that includes proposals for making taxonomic information more readily accessible. | The "59 steps" incorporate this recommendation and further development of a global taxonomy initiative (GTI) is encouraged and supported by the UK.<br><br>An OECD project, GBIF, is also a potential focus for UK input (see Article 5). | The global resource buried in the specimen collections will require a global imperative to organize and make it available. The staff and financial resources required would be very substantial and the UK may require tangible evidence of the need for this information before committing additional resources to it. Incompatibilities between the currently developing databases pose further challenges.<br><br>The substantial value of taxonomic collections is attributable not only to the collections themselves but also to the knowledge held by their curators. This knowledge base is declining as curators retire or are directed into more rewarding areas. |

# Article 8 - *In situ* conservation

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 8. In-situ Conservation*** **[excluding Article 8(j)]** | | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken | Numerous protected areas have been established under UK legislation, many of which are recognized by the various international agreements and programmes. The level of protection given to these sites varies widely, and is dependent on the objectives of designation, and the "level" of designation applied.<br><br>Various sites are also covered by EC legislation, under which the UK has responsibility to maintain the quality of identified elements. The UK has already identified SPAs under the EC Birds Directive and is identifying sites which meet the criteria for SACs under the EC Habitats Directive. This listing process is due to be completed by June 2004.<br><br>Many other sites are very effectively protected by non-government organizations such as the National Trust, the RSPB and the various county trusts (e.g. Wildlife Sites set up by Wildlife Trusts) reflecting their particular expertise or area of commitment. | Maintain current efforts, designating new sites as appropriate, and monitor effects on biological diversity as a whole in the UK.<br><br>In Scotland, reviews have been underway to establish future programmes for national parks. Two areas are under review, Loch Lomond and the Cairngorms, and various models for protection are being assessed.<br><br>Continue Natura 2000 site designations. | It would appear that the roles that protected areas should play in the wider landscape are only just beginning to be examined. These relationships, and a systematic approach to network building (see commentary in the next section) are essential to building an effective system of protected areas.<br><br>The reviews of models for implementation of national parks undertaken in Scotland are potentially useful documents and procedures for other countries investigating options for developing national park systems.<br><br>In Northern Ireland conservation plans and management plans for sites exist but do not constitute a comprehensive framework.<br><br>The link between species and habitat action plans and protected areas appears to be incomplete, with no assessment of the extent to which the species or habitats are found within designated areas networks, and therefore the contribution that these networks make. It is important to know this in order to know what other steps to take.<br><br>There are still differences of opinion within the UK on the SAC listing process. There would appear to still be large gaps in protection of the marine environment (of the UK's 333 SACs only 12 candidate marine SACs have been selected), and the UK has probably still not notified a sufficient number of coastal SACs under the EC Habitats Directive, given their importance for biodiversity conservation. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Develop guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of these areas | The various country agencies are responsible for identifying and notifying land of special interest for its wildlife, geological and natural features. The agencies also publish guidelines covering these areas, e.g. "Guidelines for Selection of Biological SSSIs" (NCC).<br><br>The Forestry Commission produces numerous publications on forestry generally including guidelines on different management regimes. However for some designated areas (e.g. SSSIs) the appropriate country agency (SNH in Scotland etc.) administers such matters.<br><br>A Government review of the SSSI system is underway.<br><br>NGOs also play a role, both through management of their own reserves and through their influence over management in the wider countryside (e.g. Wildlife Trusts).<br><br>UK Marine Special Areas of Conservation project is trialling the establishment, management and monitoring of 12 marine sites leading to the publishing of guidelines in 2000/01. | Continue with ongoing work, assessing the appropriateness of the selection criteria and the effects of management guidelines applied to these areas and amending these where necessary. | There is a concern that selection criteria for protected areas can focus on specific elements to the potential detriment of other considerations such as site interactions and surrounding areas. This is at least in part due to the fact that there is no real framework for a comprehensive and representative protected areas network; the existing networks tend to be designation-specific.<br><br>The statutory agencies are to be commended on their input to marine SAC management. This work needs to be widely available to other EU countries.<br><br>ETC/NC is working with DGXI on the assessment of sites proposed by EU Member States for designation under the Habitats Directive as part of the Natura 2000 network. The assessment is being organized on the basis of biogeographical regions through a series of seminars. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use | Ensured by country agencies and others such as the Forestry Commission and MAFF (e.g. management of fish stocks under the CFP). In some cases these agencies are themselves responsible for the management, elsewhere this is the responsibility of other landowners and occupiers. Joint agency CFP Influencing Strategy is underway.<br><br>Protection and regulation is in place, governing the exploitation of bird populations and of threatened other species. However the decline of bird populations suggests that conservation measures are still not comprehensive enough. | Continue with current efforts, adapting them to changing conditions and knowledge as appropriate e.g. seek improvement to implementation of Common Fisheries Policy to achieve sustainable fisheries. | It seems likely that the integration of the requirements of the CBD and the CFP can only be successfully achieved by decentralization of the CFP into "biological management units".<br><br>There seems to be some concern that the UK is not yet effectively regulating resource use to ensure sustainability. This seems to apply most closely to concerns about fisheries, but may be more widespread.<br><br>The wording of this Article implies that biological resources should be managed so as to ensure that they are used sustainably, a "use or lose" approach. If so, the promotion of tourism in conservation areas in the UK falls under this Article. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings | This is the responsibility of the country agencies and others such as the Forestry Commission, although their work does not really have an ecosystem focus.<br><br>Other non-governmental and voluntary sector bodies (Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, and National Trust) manage many other important sites outside the national protected area systems.<br><br>Changes in grant schemes and taxes (e.g. WGS, forestry taxation) have encouraged action in the wider countryside. Government provides advice and incentives, e.g. through agri-environment schemes to encourage protection and enhancement of wildlife.<br><br>The BAP process is leading to the development of action plans for individual species and habitats, starting with those at highest risk.<br><br>FCO programme provides support for work in the Overseas Territories. | Continue to manage existing protected areas appropriately, expand these areas and create further areas where appropriate; review agri-environment schemes to ensure objectives achieved; proceed with the development of action plans for species and habitats at risk.<br><br>Develop catchment management plans that address the deficiencies in the site designation approach for protected areas. | Protection of ecosystems needs more than protected areas, and even then the current approach to protected areas is limited to sites within ecosystems rather than following a coherent ecosystem or even a landscape approach.<br><br>A better understanding is needed of the wider landscape interactions, e.g. catchment areas, buffer zones, habitat corridors and the dynamics of fragmented populations of animals and plants. Protected areas need to be built into this approach, and then the activities outside of protected areas need to be considered. This includes many of the issues, such as incentives and the removal of disincentives, discussed elsewhere.<br><br>Significant resource constraints, such as underfunding of agri-environment schemes and only modest support for the statutory conservation agencies have an influence. Pressures remain agricultural intensification and GMOs.<br><br>It is worth noting that the UK has a long history of using volunteers in carrying out practical conservation work in the field. For example, BTCV is well known for mobilizing and supporting volunteer effort on countryside tasks. BTCV also supports a large and growing network of affiliated local groups and schools.<br><br>The importance of the UK's Overseas Territories and the ecosystems they contain is much greater than their size would suggest. More action is therefore needed to promote and encourage work in the Overseas Territories addressing biodiversity conservation. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas | This would be the responsibility of country agencies through existing legislative measures, but implementation is not systematic. The exception should be SACs and SPAs designated under EC legislation, which require protection of from adverse effects if these take place beyond boundaries.<br><br>The Forestry Commission applies such a policy through the WGS. Likewise through its role as a statutory consultee in environmental assessments of forestry proposals. | Further develop and implement the targeting of agri-environment schemes to help protect SSSIs. | Development and implementation of the concept of buffer zones is needed, backed up by appropriate management. This is also an essential element of implementing Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. |
| Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species | Country agencies are involved with habitat restoration projects and species recovery plans in many parts of the country, as are various non-government agencies such as Plantlife and the RSPB. Momentum in this area is increasing, for example, forest restoration efforts in are on the increase in Scotland, the National Trust is doing significant work in heathland, coasts and calcareous grassland.<br><br>Resources and other support for rehabilitation come from a range of sources. Government Departments and the EC play a role through grants schemes, published guidelines and policies (e.g. WGS, greening of CAP, agri-environment schemes), the Heritage Lottery Fund is providing support for a National Heathland Restoration Project, The National Trust and other NGOs raise funds through campaigns, and so on.<br><br>A number of UK organizations have specific experience in particular habitats that is called upon both other organizations in this country and abroad. For example WWT and the Broads Authority both have significant wetlands experience. | Continue to rehabilitate degraded areas currently under management. | Progress is not uniform across all habitat types (notably in high value agricultural land and peatlands, where progress is not as advanced), and programmes could perhaps be developed to seek out in a systematic manner further degraded areas amenable to restoration. Lack of resources for agri-environment schemes is also a hindrance to progress.<br><br>Where UK experience is significant, such as in restoration of heathlands and wetlands, that experience should be "advertised" and made available to other Contracting Parties through the CHM and other appropriate means. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Establish or maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology | UK fully transposed EC legislation covering the contained use, deliberate release and marketing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) which fulfills this obligation. | Negotiations currently underway to amend EC Directive on release and marketing of GMOs. UK pressing for requirement that environmental risk assessment explicitly refer to direct and indirect, immediate and long-term effects. | Increasing attention is being paid to GMOs including potential consequences for biodiversity. Wider implications of the growing of genetically modified crops on agricultural biodiversity are being investigated. |
| Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species | UK legislation already exists in this area, namely the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and is enforced by the Secretary of State and by the Agriculture Minister (as regards fish and shellfish). Land managers carry out control within protected areas where this is appropriate.<br><br>Forestry Commission seeks to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate alien plant and pest species that threaten UK ecosystems, habitats or species.<br><br>In the UK's Overseas Territories, responsibility lies with their respective Governments, although support is available from HMG (e.g. rat and cat eradication on Ascension). | JNCC is developing policy advice in this area. Consultation will take place during 1999, with consideration being given to any necessary changes in regulatory controls (see also decision *IV/1* below). | There would appear not to be an overall strategy for dealing with alien species, and if this is the case development of one should receive careful consideration.<br><br>There is also no adequate legal framework in this area with only partial coverage under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Urgent attention is required given the significance of this issue and its role in extinction globally.<br><br>Once established, alien species are not easily eradicated. While there are some success stories (Coypu), in most cases some measure of control is the best that can be hoped for (e.g. Rhododendron, Zebra Mussel, Grey Squirrel, Dutch Elm disease). Controls must therefore be adequate to ensure that no further accidental releases occur.<br><br>A further issue to consider in this area is the marine environment and water ballast released from ships. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Endeavour to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components | Government is pressing for more sustainability under the CAP and CFP, both within the EC and in implementation with the UK.<br><br>Controls on access to areas of high biodiversity interest, or where particular species are found, are important in reducing disturbance (for example of breeding birds) and reducing damage. However as recreational use of biodiversity is an important factor in the UK, this has to be done in a manner that is acceptable to "users". | Sustainable utilization to be encouraged under BAP.<br><br>MAFF is consulting on new rural development regulation. | CAP, CFP and other initiatives have a number of perverse incentives that need to be identified and addressed. Some steps will require reform of the policies, others can be taken within existing mechanisms.<br><br>The development of an ecosystem management approach across the whole country needs to be considered, linked to the concepts of sustainable utilization. |
| Develop or maintain necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations | Many measures already in place, (e.g. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Forestry Act 1967, EC Habitats Directive, EC Birds Directive). | Legislation is to be amended, and Government is committed to strengthening the protection regime for SSSIs. | Government is already aware that several areas of legislation require review, and probably strengthening. In particular the legislation needs to be modified to take full account of the EC Habitats Directive and the CBD.<br><br>Although species legislation is largely adequate, the regulatory protection of habitats outside protected areas is lacking. However the BAP process is not underpinned by law, and while species, for example, may be listed as priorities there are not necessarily regulatory mechanisms to protect them.<br><br>Requirements should be revised in terms of legislative obligation.<br><br>Additional conservation measures are required in some habitats, for example in the marine ecosystem. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Where a significant adverse effect on biological diversity has been determined, regulate or manage the relevant processes and categories of activities | Threats identified in UK Report; most threats, where identified, are already regulated in some way.<br>Government departments and agencies in the exercise of their regulatory powers practice biodiversity sympathetic approaches on a site-by-site basis. | Research ongoing into the relative significance of known threats and into potential threats arising from new sources or from previously unknown existing sources. | While threats and potential threats are being dealt with on a species, habitat or site specific basis, it is not clear that this is being done in a systematic manner, nor are threats being tackled to the extent implied by the CBD.<br>Also, while threats to species in the wider countryside can often be dealt with within existing legislation, regulatory protection of habitats outside protected areas is less clear-cut. |
| Cooperate in providing financial and other support for in-situ conservation, particularly to developing countries | The UK Government provides support through its departments and through a range of aid programmes, such as the Darwin Initiative, DFID/International Aid Programme, and FCO programmes. Projects supported have included in-situ conservation of agro-biodiversity in southern Tanzania, and assessment of wild turtle stocks in the Cayman Islands.<br>Other Government agencies and departments provide advice to developing countries on occasion. | Establish new FCO funding for Overseas Territories projects. | Although the respective programmes do not all focus specifically on conservation issues (i.e. the DFID programme is primarily focused on poverty alleviation), they all deal with the environment and natural resources. |
| ***Decision II/7. Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention.*** | | | |
| Urges all Parties and Governments and other interested stakeholders to exchange relevant information and share experience on measures taken for the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 | This has only really be done to date through the first national report. | | The UK now has considerable experience in the development and implementation of species and habitat action plans, and in the process for developing local action plans. It would seem appropriate to make this experience available to other Contracting Parties in some way. |
| ***Decision III/9. Implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention*** | | | |
| Requests Parties to take action to achieve the restoration of habitats, including their biological diversity components | See above | See above | See above |
| ***Decision IV/1. Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA, and instructions by the COP to SBSTTA [PART]*** | | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Invites Parties to develop country-driven projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species | Projects to support native species (e.g. red squirrel and water vole) threatened by alien species underway, but eradication after establishment is very difficult. | | This is not an easy issue to tackle in the UK because the fauna includes so many species that have arrived in historic times.<br><br>Note that this is a particularly important issue for Overseas Territories, which have a high biodiversity in comparison with their size and population, and are more at risk from introduction of aliens. |
| Invites Parties to address the issue of alien species for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to incorporate such activities into their national strategies, programmes and action plans | Issue addressed in "59 steps". Preliminary work, to identify impacts of alien species in the UK, in both terrestrial and marine environments, completed. | JNCC is developing policy advice in this area. Consultation will take place during 1999, with consideration being given to any necessary changes in regulatory controls. | This can be a problematic area because of public perceptions associated with any control programmes that might be implemented. Public education is required. |

# Article 8j - indigenous peoples issues

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 8. In-situ Conservation* [Article 8(j)]** | | | |
| Respect, maintain and promote appropriately knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity | According to the UK Government, the UK does not have any indigenous peoples that fall within the scope of Article 8j.<br><br>Outside its own territories, the UK is making progress towards implementation of this Article, especially within its foreign aid programmes. For example, it is evident in the methodology and subject matter of DFID and Darwin Initiative funded projects; (e.g. the effective involvement of host country indigenous and local communities as a stakeholder in projects).<br><br>The Government Panel on Sustainable Development reported on "Community and indigenous people's intellectual property rights over biological resources". Their main recommendations were to encourage more work and dialogue with interested parties by sharing experience and developing workable access and benefit sharing regimes. | A response from Government is to be issued addressing the recommendations of the Panel on Sustainable Development. | The limited interpretation of 8j by the UK Government is perhaps at odds with the wider interpretation put on it by other parties according to which it would be applicable to a variety of communities in the UK.<br><br>For example, the UK has local communities that have long traditions of use of biodiversity amongst the Western Isles crofters. Where these uses are sustainable the practices need to be acknowledged, where they are unsustainable then encouragement needs to be provided to make them so.<br><br>The participation of local communities and traditional practices are provided for (e.g. Community Forestry in Scotland), although this could probably be much better promoted. |
| ***Decision III/14. Implementation of Article 8(j)*** | | | |
| Requests Parties that have not yet done so to develop national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j) | None | None | |
| Urges Parties to supply information about the implementation of Article 8(j) and related articles, and to include such information in national reports | UK participated in intersessional workshop on Article 8(j) in Madrid in November 1997. | None | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Invites Governments to submit case studies to the Executive Secretary on measures taken to develop and implement the Convention's provisions relating to indigenous and local communities | None | None | |
| Calls upon Parties to make additional voluntary contributions to help fund a workshop on implementation of Article 8(j) | None | None | |
| In organizing the workshop the Parties shall promote consultations among the indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in order for them to choose their representatives to the workshop | None | None | |
| ***Decision IV/9. Implementation of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions*** | | | |
| Encourages Parties to include representatives of indigenous and local communities in their delegations to the proposed working group | None | None | |
| Encourages Parties to promote consultation among indigenous and local communities concerning issues to be discussed by the proposed working group | UK promotes consultation in the context of DFID and Darwin funded projects in other countries but not with specific reference to the proposed working group. | UK involved in debate in many fora. Much work already in progress on taking forward the COP4 Decision IV/9 (implementation) but actions not recorded here yet. | |
| Invites Governments to submit case-studies and other relevant information as background information for the working group and for dissemination through means such as the clearing-house mechanism | DFID projects submitted to CBD secretariat but not specifically with reference to working group. | None | |
| Requests Parties to facilitate active participation in the working group of indigenous and local communities from their territories | None | None | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourages Parties, when requesting assistance through the GEF relevant to Article 8(j) and related provisions, to give priority to particular categories of projects | Not applicable | Not applicable | |

# Article 9 - *Ex situ* conservation

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 9. Ex-situ Conservation*** | | | |
| Adopt measures for the ex-situ conservation of components of biological diversity, preferably in the country of origin of such components | Various zoos, botanical gardens and other conservation institutions are conserving components from the UK and elsewhere.<br><br>The UK is also supporting in-country capacity building in other parts of the world E.g. an FCO supported nursery for endemic plants in St Helena. | Conclude the MAFF-led policy review currently underway involving the UK PGR group and appropriate stakeholders (e.g. curators of collections, public and private breeders).<br><br>Continued capacity building at home and abroad. | This is an area in which the UK may be considered a world leader, with knowledge and experience to share with other Contracting Parties. |
| Establish and maintain facilities for ex-situ conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms, preferably in the country of origin of genetic resources | The Millennium Seedbank is a very significant contribution in this area, aiming to bank all of the UK's vascular plant species.<br><br>Other important UK collections include the Vegetable Gene Bank, the National Fruit Collection, the Pea Gene Bank and the Commonwealth Potato Collection.<br><br>The UK's Zoos and animal sanctuaries maintain facilities and conduct successful breeding programmes for animal species that are threatened in their native habitats. A number of these participate in international information exchange initiatives such as the International Species Information Systems. Numerous reintroduction projects are planned or underway (e.g. Andean condor at Chester Zoo).<br><br>The UK has a network of culture collections for microorganisms, which collaborates with other European culture collections through ECCO. | Continue to maintain and enlarge existing collections in the UK as well as collaborative collections and collections in other countries. Create new facilities and revise management guidelines as appropriate. | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adopt measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions | UK institutions working in this area include various zoos, Millennium Seedbank, BGCI | | |
| Regulate and manage collections of biological resources from natural habitats for ex-situ conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and in-situ populations of species | This is part of the collections policies of the UK organizations working in this area | | |
| Cooperate in providing financial and other support for ex-situ conservation, and in the establishment and maintenance of ex-situ conservation facilities in developing countries. | Various UK conservation institutions are active in this area including BGCI, DFID, British Council, Darwin Initiative; e.g. Training for herbarium technicians - Malaysia, creation of a database system for botanical gardens – Indonesia, National Herbarium – Bangladesh. | | |

# Article 10 - Sustainable use

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity*** | | | |
| Integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making | "Greening of government policy" a priority at all levels.<br><br>The Government's "Revised Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK - A Better Quality of Life" addresses this issue. | | There is a certain amount of scepticism about the extent to which this is actually occurring, or the priority which it is being given. Is "greening of Government" leading to integration of biodiversity issues into national decision making? It is difficult to tell at this stage whether this is a real issue, or a communications issue. Either way it needs to be addressed.<br><br>Sustainable practices have yet to be identified and promoted at all levels and in all sectors. |
| Adopt measures relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity | Promoted through such concepts as sustainable forestry and sustainable fisheries, progress also made on international efforts such as CITES (i.e. limited resumption of ivory trading). | Continue efforts to encourage environmentally friendly practices within the operation of international instruments such as the CAP and CFP. | As well as working towards reform of CAP and CFP in a clear and focused manner, attention also needs to be paid to the opportunities within the Rural Reform Regulation to promote sustainable agriculture.<br><br>Again, although some action is being taken (voluntary labelling schemes, quotas), some corespondents suggest that it is not clear enough what is being done on a long term strategic basis to ensure sustainable forestry, sustainable fisheries, sustainable agriculture. Attention needs to be given to this. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements | In the UK few customary uses of biological resources survive. The Forestry Commission is involved in the development of markets for traditional woodland products such as charcoal, crofting in Scotland survives in some areas. Mohair farming and coppice woodland are other examples.<br><br>Internationally the UK promotes such uses in developing countries. E.g. DFID, Darwin Initiative; Usage of local flora by the Tawahka people, Honduras. The NHM project provided field guides for documenting agricultural and ethnobotanical practices of the Tawahka peoples. | | |
| Support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced | In UK appropriate support (i.e. Lottery money) given to Habitat Restoration Projects developed in cooperation with local conservation groups, Local Agenda 21 and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (particularly relevant in cities).<br><br>The Wildlife Trusts, through making biodiversity relevant to people, are encouraging people to, "enjoy, understand, take action and celebrate wildlife."<br><br>Scotland is developing the LBAP process in particular areas where remedial action is required.<br><br>Support is also given for projects in other countries, e.g. Rehabilitation of degraded reefs using artificial reef blocks – Maldives (DFID), plant re-introductions – St Helena (FCO). | | Are there potential links here to land reform processes (for example in parts of Scotland), and could further support be made available for remedial action? |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourage cooperation between governmental authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources. | Coordinated under the Biodiversity Challenge, involves partnership with private sector in progressing with action plan. E.g. UKPIA projects, and CBI Environment Business Forum.<br><br>Booklet, "Business and Biodiversity" produced by Earthwatch following work by UK Round Table on Sustainable Development.<br><br>Scotland has practiced a sectoral approach and has targeted agriculture and business in the development of programmes of sustainable use of biological resources.<br><br>The UK supports other countries' efforts to comply with this obligation through the activities of the British Council, whose work in supporting the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies in these countries primarily targets policy makers and practitioners in the public, educational, NGO and private sectors with responsibility for environmental affairs. | Continue efforts at home and abroad, building on previous experiences. | The involvement of the commercial sector is still basically poor. In part this is because the emphasis is often on expecting the commercial "partner" to supply resources, rather than to be a real partner in a practical sense.<br><br>On the other hand the interaction with the tourism industry in certain parts of the country, particularly in the national parks and certain of the AONBs in England and Wales, is generally good.<br><br>The commercial sector needs to be involved in a wide range of ways, e.g; as a potential funder, as an owner and manager of land, as a source of manpower and expertise, and as a source of information and experience. The commercial sector is also perhaps the most important player in terms of resource use, including natural resources, in the UK. Also, many companies operate internationally, and have activities that have international implications. These are only some of the ways in which the commercial sector impacts on and is therefore capable of influencing biodiversity conservation. National biodiversity policy and action needs to reach out strongly to the commercial sector in a manner that goes significantly beyond a call for resources. |

# Article 11 - Incentive measures

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 11. Incentive Measures*** | | | |
| Adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity. | UK has implemented incentive schemes covering farming (e.g. Countryside Stewardship, ESAs) and forestry (WGS) and is considering a number of other incentive measures, in particular a tax on pesticides and on aggregates extraction, yielding biodiversity benefits.<br><br>Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) operate in areas designated for their high landscape, wildlife and historic value which are threatened by agricultural practices. Financial incentives are offered to farmers to adopt agricultural practices which will safeguard and enhance the rural environment.<br><br>UK has contributed to work by the OECD in this area by submitting one of the case studies (on heathland management) on which this work was based.<br><br>Consultations are underway on policy, legislation and management procedures in the area of wildlife site management. | The OECD Expert Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity is continuing its work on incentive measures. The Expert Group is now working with the Economics Division of the Environment Directorate on synthesizing experiences from case studies of the implementation of incentive measures provided by Member countries. The objective is to provide practical guidance for policy makers on the implementation of incentive measures in the form of a "Best practice handbook". In addition, the Expert Group recently published the document Incentive Measures to Promote the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity: Framework for Case Studies. | This is a high priority area, both for the development and further implementation of incentive schemes, and the replacement or adjustment of environmentally damaging incentive measures.<br><br>Given the high priority accorded to incentive programmes, it would seem appropriate to allocated more resources to both development and implementation of these programmes.<br><br>At present compensatory payments are made in SSSIs for "profits foregone". This is probably the wrong sort of message to be sending in the circumstances, and a payment for carrying out a particular form of management would seem more appropriate.<br><br>Both the CAP and CFP have a strong influence on the manner in which certain resources are used and subsequently on the environment and biodiversity. Both could be transformed into positive measures for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. |
| ***Decision III/18. Incentive measures*** | | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourages Parties to review their existing legislation and economic policies, to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity | This is the role of UK Biodiversity Group and Biodiversity Challenge, building on work already done by some country agencies and national park authorities.<br><br>Agri-environment schemes are kept under review; additional resources have been made available for nature conservation schemes following CSR.<br><br>DFID has developed a biodiversity strategy for its overseas aid programmes. | UK pressing for further reform of CAP so that some of the resources currently used for production subsidies can be used to support the environment and rural economies. | Cross-compliance between grant schemes is considered as an area where improvements could be made.<br><br>The increased Government activity in this area could be better publicized.<br><br>Changing attitudes in governments and sectors are increasing the importance of a good quality biodiversity-friendly image. This in itself is a powerful and increasingly important incentive. |
| Encourages Parties to ensure adequate incorporation of the market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas | UK National Report includes an assessment of the value of biodiversity, which is built into the general "greening of government" approach, although this is not strictly market value. | | Although non-market values are incorporated into policy (e.g. quality of life) the monetary valuation of biodiversity with a view to internalizing external costs is not widely practiced in the UK. |
| Encourages Parties to develop training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives in this regard | Forestry Commission provides training for its own staff and others concerning implementation of the WGS.<br><br>UK Round Table has studied and reported on the role of the private-sector, eliciting favourable government response. Some sponsorship of species by companies already occurs (e.g. Championing of species or plans). | | Private sector involvement has not been as great as has been anticipated or required under BAP, and the reasons for this perhaps require some investigation. |
| Encourages Parties to incorporate biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures | Land-use planning includes EIA, EIA applies additional procedures to certain projects.<br><br>The EC Habitats Directive also requires an "appropriate assessment" (Article 6(3)) of any proposal which may adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. | | |
| Invites Parties to share experiences on incentive measures and make relevant case studies available to the Secretariat | A report was submitted at the last COP. UK will be involved in OECD handbook (see above). | | |
| ***Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention* [PART]** | | | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourages Parties to promote design and implementation of appropriate incentive measures | See Article 11 | | |
| Encourages Parties to identify threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures | See Article 8 | | |
| Encourages Parties to take into account economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation in the development of relevant incentive measures | A very preliminary valuation is included in the National Report and BAP. Work also undertaken in costing biodiversity action plans by BAP sub group.<br><br>Community Woodland supplement under the WGS provides extra funding for native forest schemes that incorporate enhanced access for local communities. | | |
| Encourages Parties to develop supportive legal and policy frameworks for the design and implementation of incentive measures | All payments are supported by specific legislation; e.g. UK Forestry Standard operates as policy framework for WGS and other forestry incentive schemes, CAP is framework policy for agricultural incentive schemes. | | The decentralization of the CFP into biological management units discussed earlier would provide framework for incentive measures. |
| Encourages Parties to carry out consultative processes to define clear target-oriented incentive measures to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss | UK Round Table and Biodiversity Challenge reports discuss this, and all changes to and new incentive schemes are subject to consultation. | | It is not clear to what extent this is actually being done in a strategic manner. There are a number of incentive schemes, each of which is targeted towards a specific need or problem. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourages Parties to identify and consider neutralizing perverse incentives | The UK has been actively involved in identifying and neutralizing perverse incentives both at home (e.g. tax scheme for forests) and abroad (e.g. CAP). | Continue to identify and deal with those perverse incentives that persist within the agricultural subsidy regime. | With increasing global cooperation and interdependence in the areas of trade and resources, the potential impacts of perverse incentives are increasing significantly. Analysis of the impact of both national and international policy in trade and resources is an essential step in identifying and removing perverse incentives and is in hand in the OECD and EU.<br><br>For example, reform of UK support for EC structural funds and other financial support could be redirected to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (which will in the long term protect renewable natural resources). |
| Encourages Parties to prepare case studies | See above, heathland management and ESA case studies submitted to OECD. | | |
| Encourages Parties to undertake value addition of naturally occurring genetic resources based on the participatory approach to work as incentives for their conservation and sustainable use | Community Forestry projects in Scotland focus on involving local communities in the management of semi-natural forests so as to increase not only their biodiversity value but also their educational, recreational and in some cases production value. | | |
| Requests Parties to include information on the design and implementation of incentive measures in their second national reports | | | We are not aware of any action being taken or planned in this area, although this may be because the timing and format of the next round of reporting has not yet been set. |

# Article 12 - Research and training

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 12. Research and Training*** | | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Establish and maintain programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and provide support for such education and training for the specific needs of developing countries | In UK, many institutions host training programmes for hundreds of students from developing countries each year and also make resources available for visiting researchers, relying on UK, GEF and donor country funding.<br><br>The British Council seeks to provide access to British expertise and resources for the many countries in which it works (there are 110 country offices). The council's environmental activities are focussed on Agenda 21 and the Rio agreements.<br><br>Darwin Initiative plays a significant role through projects such as one to build capacity through the Wildlife Society of Tanzania.<br><br>Many UK organizations are involved in practical training in developing countries. For example, CAB International has a strategy for training in information management based on working placements linked to short intensive courses, and a regional approach to training delivery centred on offices in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. In addition, over the last ten years CAB BIOSCIENCE has provided training to more than 2,500 scientists from more than 140 countries.<br><br>The bibliographic database compiled by CAB International covers research and development literature in the fields of *inter alia*: agriculture, forestry and the management and conservation of natural resources. Over three million records have been added to the database since 1973, available through a wide range of products and services both printed and electronic. | | Institutions have to rely increasingly on external donors to support training and education, as internal resources are increasingly constrained. This can lead to piecemeal rather than strategic approaches.<br><br>The potential role of the British Council in facilitating access to British expertise and resources in this sector is possibly being underestimated and might warrant review. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries | The UK has significant track record in biodiversity-related research and training. Work is currently underway through DETR to coordinate current research efforts following a review process.<br><br>NERC promotes and supports research, survey and long term environmental monitoring and related post-graduate training.<br><br>A number of universities, museums and herbaria have strong links with other countries, supporting both research and training.<br><br>Within the UK are a range of organizations with world-leading skills in particular habitats or with particular groups of species. For example, WWT has a worldwide reputation for its knowledge of wildfowl. Between 30 and 35 scientists tackle a wide range of research projects in wildfowl biology, wetland ecology and management. | Establish a time-limited group to identify research needs and responsibilities. Also improve coordination of and access to data on current research by establishing a meta-database using the foundation phase NBN index as a model. Establish a Biodiversity Research Support Project to back this up. | The Nature Conservation Bureau and NERC are running the Biodiversity Support Project, which is seeking to identify gaps in research, set up an information system, and make proposals for research which cuts across different sectoral interests and different ecosystems. This is being done initially through a series of workshops, aimed at identifying the most promising or necessary areas for research within general themes which have been identified by the Biodiversity Research Working Group. The topics are:<br><br>pastoral agriculture; introductions, translocations and genetic conservation; coastal and marine protected areas; landscape ecology, habitat fragmentation and land use change scenarios; monitoring methodologies |
| Promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. | UK research promoted via NERC and BBSRC, cooperation promoted through, among others, BGCI and ECCO. Continuous process feeds the results of research into conservation activities and specifically into HAP and SAP implementation steering groups.<br><br>Darwin Initiative, e.g. Assessing the status of green turtles and development of a management plan for ecotourism on Ascension Island.<br><br>DFID funding provided for training courses provided by CABI under IFD programme. | Continue current efforts, responding appropriately to needs and opportunities in the UK and in developing countries. | Peer to peer exchanges have been facilitated by increasing development of the Internet, especially email and the World Wide Web. |

# Article 13 - Education and awareness

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 13. Public Education and Awareness*** | | | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Promote understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity, in particular through the media and educational programmes | The National Curriculum for geography requires pupils to understand how people affect the environment, and the complexity of understanding expected increases with level of achievement. Also, at the higher levels in science, pupils are expected to be able to predict short and long term effects of environmental change on ecosystems.<br><br>A public awareness campaign has been initiated by UKBAP Steering Group, supported by the 100+ local BAPs, local Agenda 21 activity, and so on. Frequent one-off events are taking place although resources are limited. Work is also underway promoting good practice through integration of the environment into school curriculum and institutional programmes.<br><br>In Scotland every opportunity is being taken to enhance the generic understanding of the issues connected with biological diversity.<br><br>RSPB has a Young Ornithologists Club, which is probably the world's largest wildlife club for young people. Members are informed about birds and conservation issues through projects and activities designed to be enjoyable for younger people. Wildlife Watch, organized by the Wildlife Trust, is a leading club for young people interested in conservation and environment. Organized locally, it is intended as a "fun, factual and informed" way for young people and their families to learn about and enjoy their environment. Emphasis is on local activity, and on national project to which young people can contribute. Numerous other adhoc programmes exist. | A new programme for education for sustainable development in England was launched in April 1999. The report *Green Learning for the New Century* sets out a ten year programme targeted at schools, youth services and further and higher education, as well as at work and in the home. The proposals and recommendations will be considered by Government and others over the coming months.<br><br>The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy contains a section dedicated to public education and awareness although no action plans have yet been developed. | Education and awareness is a long-term issue, and should be addressed as such. While there are public awareness programmes that can be achieved now, it is really through the education system that long-term and lasting achievements can be made.<br><br>CBD is a potential focus for UK educational programmes, raising the profile of the UK's contribution to this and other international environmental efforts. However, there is also a concern that public awareness issues are often treated in a rather too sectoral manner, and not integrated into wider issues.<br><br>The NGO community is very effective at reaching a wide audience, but this is often not the case with Government agencies. As a result an unbalanced view of what is being done by Government departments and agencies is often received. Collaborative programmes between Government and non-government sectors (such as BAP, LBAP and local Agenda 21s) are therefore important foci for public awareness programmes.<br><br>Wide audiences are reached by appropriately targeted television series. A series on specialized activities (such as recreation of fishing) covering the implications and benefits of biodiversity protection on these activities might help to provide a wider understanding of cross-sectoral integration.<br><br>Note that resources in this area are a limiting factor. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing educational and public awareness programmes, with respect to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. | At the European level programmes are being developed by the Council of Europe and through the Pan European Biological Landscape Diversity Strategy. | | Note that there is a suggestion that the Council of Europe may be pulling out of many of its nature conservation activities.<br>There are presumably also activities under the UNESCO umbrella, but we are unaware of these. |
| ***Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention* [PART]** | | | |
| Urges Parties to place special emphasis on the requirements of Article 13 of the Convention in the development of their national strategies and action plans | The UK Government is taking appropriate action to follow up the 80+ recommendations contained in the UK Steering Group Report. | | |
| Urges Parties to allocate appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation | The need for education and communication has been clearly recognized in the UK BAP and individual BAPs have been circulated to all groups involved in implementation. Appropriate target groups have also been informed of and involved in this process. | | |
| Urges Parties to integrate biological diversity concerns into education strategies | In the UK environmental education has been integrated into education strategies at various levels (see above).<br>International education strategies also reflect this. E.g. FCO support provided for Environmental Education project in St Helena. | | |
| Urges Parties to support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes | Voluntary groups actively involved in Biodiversity Challenge, Local Agenda 21, etc. CEE has produced a guide on biodiversity education in zoos and field centres etc. | | |
| Urges Parties to share experience on initiatives on public education and awareness and public participation, and to make case studies available | Some of this experience is shared through the National Report (Agenda 21, Local Action Plans) | FCO will be distributing Antarctica education pack to relevant authorities in each of the CBD parties. | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourages Parties to make use of all media to promote public education and awareness | Media used range from Internet, TV and radio to presentations and workshops. | | |
| Calls upon Parties to illustrate and translate provisions of the Convention into local languages to promote public awareness and education | Various materials have been translated into Welsh, although these tend to be publicity materials rather than technical documents. | | |
| Urges Parties to support local, national, subregional and regional public education and awareness initiatives | Role of Local Authorities recognized, e.g. in regulatory areas, awareness and preparation of local biodiversity action plans. National agencies have supported these efforts (e.g. talks given by DETR at local events). | | Public awareness should encompass not only awareness of the fundamental issues raised by the CBD but also of the contributions to implementation of the CBD made by UK institutions. |
| Urges Parties, when requesting assistance through the GEF, to propose projects which promote measures for implementing the provisions of the Convention on public education and awareness | Not applicable | Not applicable | |

# Article 14 - Impact assessment

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 14. Impact Assessment and Minimising Adverse Impacts*** | | | |
| Ensure environmental impact assessment of proposed projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity with a view to avoiding or minimizing such effects | UK is covered in this area by EU legislation, namely the EIA directive and, to a certain extent, IPPC and Seveso II Directives as well as EMAS. Assessments are also required under the Habitats and Birds Directives, Wildlife and Countryside Act, planning regulations and other legislative instruments.<br><br>In May 1998 the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development published its 'Business and Biodiversity' guide to help business better understand and integrate biodiversity into environmental management systems.<br><br>In May 1999 UKPIA published its brochure on biodiversity illustrating – through use of case-studies and best practice examples – how the oil industry has geared itself towards improving biodiversity in the wider context of sustainable development. | Forthcoming Overseas Territories conference will discuss EIA and related topics. | It has not yet been determined how some of this legislation supports or otherwise the aims of the CBD. This probably requires a more detailed assessment. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ensure that the environmental consequences of programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account | EU SEA directive embodying procedures and measures is currently in the process of being negotiated by the EU. | | The UK Government should support the EC's amended proposal for a Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment, which would enable the Government to assess the effects of transport, energy and waste policies on the environment (amongst others).<br><br>It should be noted that this provision is also directly relevant to the actions of UK-based commercial companies at home and abroad. While many of these companies are acting responsibly in this area, their primary orientation is commercial, so appropriate regulatory frameworks are necessary to ensure that the companies are able act appropriately. |
| Promote notification, exchange of information and consultation on activities which are likely to significantly affect the biological diversity of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction | Under Seveso Directive, UK must notify other potentially affected Member States if there is a possibility of transboundary effects of a major accident.<br><br>In Northern Ireland, agreements with the neighbouring Republic of Ireland are in place so those projects in either country with potentially transboundary impacts are subject to consultation between both countries.<br><br>Through EU UK participates in work of MAHB at the JRC in Italy. This includes the MARS database of accidents and CDCIR, which aims to facilitate exchange of information between the Member States on the control of major hazard industrial activities. | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| In the case of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity within areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, notify immediately the potentially affected States of such danger or damage, as well as initiate action to prevent or minimize such danger or damage | As a member of the EU, UK follows provisions of Seveso Directive, which aims to prevent and limit the consequences of major accidents. This Directive provides for mandatory or voluntary notification (according to the severity of an accident) to the European Commission in the event of an accident and makes remedial action and damage limitation compulsory.<br><br>Where nuclear material is involved, notification and remedial action requirements are governed by the Euratom Regulation that places even stricter requirements on member states. | | |
| Promote national arrangements for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity and encourage international cooperation to supplement such national efforts and establish joint contingency plans | At national level, UK Environment Agency coordinates emergency responses to various accidents arising on land, inland waters or resulting from spillages on land e.g. Oil Response Teams, Environment Emergency Units, and it has established a National Contingency Plan.<br><br>Accidents offshore are dealt with by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, an executive agency of DETR, through its four regional offices, which each have a counter-pollution officer, and its Shoreline Response Centre.<br><br>UK is also covered by the provisions of the EU Seveso Directive that regulates these matters within the EU.<br><br>The Aviation and Maritime departments of the FCO deal with similar issues in the OT's.<br><br>UK has signed but not ratified the UN/ECE Convention on the transboundary effects of industrial accidents. The convention itself has not received a sufficient number of ratifications to enter into force. | Publish new National Contingency Plan before end 1999. | Environmental emergencies are often, though not always, the "responsibility" of parts of the corporate sector. In most instances these companies take a responsible attitude to both contingency planning and emergency response. However, their interests are basically commercial. Regulations and other appropriate mechanisms need to be in place that "allow" these companies to take the necessary steps. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention* [PART]** | | | |
| Invites Parties to exchange information and experience relating to environmental impact assessment and resulting mitigation measures and incentive schemes | UK contributes to studies, reports and guidance documents initiated by the European Commission and OECD. | Information gathering and collation for submission to SBSTTA, possibly as part of EU collective response. | |
| Invites Parties to provide information on measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity | In the UK there is no specific regime covering liability and redress for damage to biological diversity. Instead general liability law and contaminated land law are used.<br>Work has begun on EU legislation on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity.<br>UK is party to a number of international conventions establishing civil liability for environmental damage (e.g. oil pollution). However these tend to exclude liability for "pure" environmental damage unless directly financially quantifiable damage is caused. | An EU directive concerning the release of GMOs is under review and may be amended to include provisions on liability for damage caused by the release of GMOs, including damage to biodiversity. | The UK co-hosted a workshop on liability and redress issues arising in relation to the Draft Biosafety Protocol in July 1998. |
| Invites Parties to include in their national reports information on actions taken with respect to liability and redress for damage to biological diversity | | Although work has not yet begun, there is an intention to contribute under this obligation. | |

# Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 15. Access to Genetic Resources*** | | | |
| Endeavour to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties, avoiding restrictions that run counter to the objectives of this Convention | The UK holds a number of accessible plant genetic resource collections, and is developing the Millennium Seedbank.<br><br>A review is underway covering both access policy and the access regimes for plant and animal genetic resources currently in place in the UK. This is directed at the requirements for both the CBD and the IUPGRFA.<br><br>UK currently operates under UPOV rules governing the protection of new varieties of plants.<br><br>UK actively involved in UNCTAD 'Biotrade Initiative' (November 1998). | Regionally balanced panel of experts (including representatives from Government, private and public sector organizations) scheduled to convene to further explore guiding principles, guidelines and best practice codes for access [to genetic resources] and benefit sharing arrangements.<br><br>Taking forwards recommendations from the outcomes of above meetings for further discussion at COP5.<br><br>Intersessional meeting on the Operations of the Convention scheduled for June 28-30 which will include 'Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing' as a key agenda item. Will also help to further work in developing a common appreciation of the relationship between intellectual property rights, trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and the CBD. | Private ownership of some collections of genetic resources could hamper efforts to harmonize access regimes, e.g. "black box" collections held at RBG Kew, access to which is restricted by their owners. Although response from most UK institutions and private entities has been good, other CBD parties are concerned about intellectual property right issues, particularly relating to patent law, raised by plant breeding. Sovereignty issues relating to the ownership of plant resources are also a cause for concern.<br><br>Internationally there is a greater awareness of the property rights of countries providing genetic resources.<br><br>Those genetic resources acquired before the entry into force of the CBD are not covered by its provisions. |
| Endeavour to carry out scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties with the full participation of, and where possible in, such Contracting Parties | All DFID projects and Darwin Initiative projects entail involvement of host country, and usually take place in host country. | | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Take legislative, administrative or policy measures with the aim of sharing in a fair and equitable way the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources with the Contracting Party providing such resources | At a national level no measures are in place as most genetic material is in the hands of private entities.<br><br>Internationally, under the IUPGRFA, free access to and equitable sharing of the results of research are promoted in the context of individual projects or programmes. CGIAR provides both funding and direction for such efforts.<br><br>Internationally the equitable sharing of the results of research is a crucial element of development aid-funded projects. Local ownership of projects and of outputs and resulting innovations are stipulations of projects hosted by developing countries and funded by DFID or under the Darwin Initiative (e.g. the Economic and ecological analysis of biodiversity project in Africa).<br><br>MAFF is the lead department in matters of access to genetic resources. | | UK patent law states that patents can only be obtained for advances which meet the basic requirements for patentability - they must be new, not obvious, and have an industrial application. The law does cover the patentability of biotechnological inventions, the scope of protection, cross-licensing with those holding plant variety rights, rules relating to deposit of biological material at depository institutions and access rights to such material.<br><br>The commercial uses of plant genetic resources, e.g. for pharmaceuticals and agriculture, can lead to significant financial benefits. However sharing these benefits with the country providing the resources is complicated by considerations of ownership and of appropriate institutional responsibility. |
| ***Decision II/11. Access to genetic resources*** | | | |
| Urges Governments to send information on national measures to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience | | | |
| ***Decision III/15. Access to genetic resources*** | | | |
| Urges Governments to send to the Secretariat, five months before the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, information on relevant legislative, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes, and research programmes | A consultant was seconded from the UK (RBG Kew) to support the work of the CBD secretariat in this area. | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urges Governments to implement human and institutional capacity-building programmes to promote successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including scientific, technical, business, legal and management skills and capacities | In the UK the Millennium Seedbank has been created, public collections and arboreta are supported and UK museums and other institutions provide training at various levels.<br>Internationally support is also given for projects in developing countries, e.g. Limbe botanic garden and rainforest genetic conservation project – Cameroon (DFID). | | |
| Invites Governments to analyze experiences of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including regional efforts and initiatives, and to disseminate these widely to those involved in developing and implementing measures and guidelines on access | Guidelines are currently under review.<br>UK involved with FAO in working towards revision of the International Undertaking in this area and the clarification of domestic control framework (see IUPGRFA). | | Access to genetic resources is considered a crucial element to achieving both sustainability and conservation objectives. Given that no country is self-sufficient in terms of genetic resources, access can be considered a benefit in itself. |
| Encourages Governments to explore and develop, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, guidelines and practices to ensure mutual benefits to providers and users of access measures and to implement them effectively at all appropriate levels | | | |
| Encourages Governments to identify and communicate to the Secretariat competent national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources and/or competent national authorities to provide information on the granting of access to genetic resources | The UK National Report identifies national collections of genetic resources. Most of these grant unregulated access. MAFF, the lead agency in this area, is in the process of clarifying domestic issues of access and coordinating government policy. | Produce a coordinated access policy for all collections of genetic resources, drawing on previous experiences and taking into account all the issues. | |
| Urges Governments to bring to a rapid conclusion the negotiation for the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture | UK is an active participant in current ongoing discussions | | |

# Article 16 - Access to technology

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 16. Access to and Transfer of Technology*** | | | |
| Provide and/or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment | The UK continues to promote a framework of policies nationally and internationally, including effective protection of intellectual property rights, which encourages private investment in developing, innovating, commercializing and diffusing technology.<br><br>DTI and DETR have established JEMU which encourages the transfer of environmental technologies by developing channels of communication with industry and helping potential overseas customers to find the assistance that they require (e.g. through a company directory).<br><br>At a practical level, JEMU operates TPI, which aims to facilitate transfer of environmental technology on a commercial basis to developing countries by encouraging improved communication about UK capabilities and encouraging partnerships between UK businesses and developing countries. Information is also provided to developing countries on affordable and proven technologies in the UK appropriate to their needs. TPI has established a network of contacts and has facilitated exchange of information on best practice and case studies.<br><br>The UK's export promotion programme encourages the transfer of technology through commercial channels with recent added emphasis on partnerships, joint ventures and investments. | Continuation of actions underway at all levels, both at home and abroad. | UK national experience on Government efforts to encourage technology transfer (between different sectors, from larger to smaller companies, from the science base to the market) very clearly shows that there is no simple answer. There are a range of approaches which have been tried. Their effectiveness varies from situation to situation and over time.<br><br>The Government's role on technology transfer is limited to a facilitative one as the information is in the private sector. A framework of policies has been adopted that encourages private investment in developing, commercializing and spreading technology. This applies just as much to developing as to developed countries.<br><br>Finding the correct balance between the protection of intellectual property rights and the facilitation of access to genetic resources (see above) is not easy. Excessive regulation can obstruct the objectives of the CBD by adding to the cost of and otherwise inhibiting research.<br><br>There almost certainly needs to be wider promotion of the information sources available to facilitate access to technology. This will be achieved in part through the UK CHM, but this may not be sufficient. This is an area that could be reviewed by a number of the agencies and organizations working in this area including DETR, DTA, British Council, NRI, DFID and possibly CABI, with JNCC and WCMC who |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Many DFID projects entail the transfer of environmental technologies and techniques to developing countries. | | are working on related CHM issues. |
| Access to and transfer of technology to developing countries shall be provided and/or facilitated under fair and most favourable terms. In the case of technology subject to patents and other intellectual property rights, such access and transfer shall be provided on terms which recognize and are consistent with the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. | A wide range of organizations is involved in small-scale projects that facilitate access to improved technologies, and/or training in using them. For example, NHM is involved with the transfer of automated species identification systems to Costa Rica.<br><br>"Fair and favourable" access is a central condition to projects that provide training and capacity building to developing countries, funded, usually under grant terms, by DFID and under the Darwin Initiative. | | |
| Take legislative, administrative or policy measures with the aim that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which makes use of those resources | DFID and Darwin Initiative funded projects provide for training and capacity building in host countries and emphasize the importance of projects having a real and lasting impact (e.g. Study of and training for propagation of non-timber forest products).<br><br>Darwin Initiative grant offers include clause granting "non-exclusive world-wide licence in regard to all innovations and discoveries and all intellectual property rights secured for these" to all participating bodies. | | |
| Take legislative, administrative or policy measures with the aim that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of technology for the benefit of both governmental institutions and the private sector of developing countries | | | |
| Cooperate in the area of patents and intellectual property rights in order to ensure that such rights are supportive of and do not run counter to the objectives of the convention | | Continue with current efforts and monitor their effects, revising instruments and actions as appropriate. | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights*** | | | |
| Encourages Governments to conduct and communicate to the Executive Secretary case studies of the impacts of intellectual property rights on the achievement of the Convention's objectives | | | |

# Articles 17 and 18 - Information and cooperation

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 17. Exchange of Information*** | | | |
| Facilitate the exchange of information, from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the special needs of developing countries. | The UK is working on improving access to information based on available datasources and use of modern technology. This is an active but lengthy programme due to the volume of information involved.<br><br>Where common international problems exist, MAFF cooperates in the exchange of information and expertise on an ad-hoc basis, e.g. BSE.<br><br>Assistance for developing countries in accessing data held in the UK is also being provided, as appropriate, through programmes such as the Darwin Initiative.<br><br>The UK is host to various internationally operating organizations that facilitate access to information. For example, WCMC assesses trends in global biodiversity, provide information services and help build capacity for biodiversity data management in the developing world. | Continue with efforts at home and abroad in order to make more information available via more publicly available sources to more people, especially in developing countries. | There has undoubtedly been an increase in the ability to access information over the last few years, from both Government and non-government sources. This process should continue, perhaps taking note of the objectives of the CBD which should be reflected in any prioritization of action.<br><br>Increased coordination in making information available, and in helping others to find the information that they require, would be particularly useful.<br><br>FCO is helping Overseas Territories develop their own user-friendly web sites. |
| ***Article 18. Technical and Scientific Cooperation*** | | | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity through the appropriate international and national institutions | The UK participates in a wide range of international agreements and programmes, and actively promotes the exchange of information and technical and scientific cooperation.<br><br>Various UK agencies support staff exchange programmes and visits. For example the British Council funds around 6000 science-related visits each year, and more than 1300 research links (though not all are environmental in nature). | Continue to cooperate under existing agreements, monitoring progress and building on previous experience. Strengthen links with existing partners and establish links with new partners as appropriate. | The UK is an extremely active player in the field of international technical and scientific cooperation. |
| Promote technical and scientific cooperation with other Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries | The UK has a history of providing technical and scientific cooperation to other countries, and particularly developing countries. This is not only through development aid projects, but also through projects run by individual institutions such as the botanical gardens, museums and universities. | Continue with current projects in this area and seek to enlarge, improve and add further projects. | The UK is an extremely active player in the field of international technical and scientific cooperation. |
| Encourage and develop methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies | Darwin Initiative; Integrating traditional resource management and conservation strategies, Ethiopia | Continue with and develop current undertakings. Seek new opportunities and methods as appropriate. | |
| Promote the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies | UK participates in EC research programmes and centres (including the Joint Research Centre), supports international institutions such as UNEP through the provision of funding and of UK experts, and collaborates with developing countries extensively. | Continue to provide appropriate support to all these programmes. Investigate the potential for new ventures. | |
| ***Decision II/3. Clearing House Mechanism*** | | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Invites Contracting Parties to offer their cooperation as active partners in the operation of the Clearing House Mechanism | UK active partner in the establishment and operation of the CHM, and has been collaborating with the EEA in the development of an EC CHM. | EEA has been entrusted by the EC with the establishment of a Clearing House Mechanism for the EU: following a survey of activities of Member States (1996). More concerted development action is under way in 1999. | The development of the EC CHM is significant because it is the first *regional* initiative. The thrust of the project will be towards developing a "road map" of available information, and the development of distributed information systems. As such it is important that the UK continue to play an active role in its development.<br><br>The UK should also continue to play an active role in the development of the CHM more generally, helping to ensure that the CHM develops in a strategic manner that serves real needs, rather than in an *ad hoc* manner. |
| Requests active partners to focus on developing national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention, facilitating access to and dissemination of information, and facilitating transfer of technology | Reports have been sent to the CBD Executive Secretary concerning UK experience on a range of issues including Article 7, coastal and marine biodiversity, inland water biodiversity. | | There is still no effective way of sharing case studies and best practice. Many of the Articles and Decisions listed here call on Contracting Parties to provide information on lessons learnt, but there is no guidance given on how that information should be provided, no consistency in how compiled information in passed on to other Contracting Parties (if it is at all), and no method developed for easily gaining access to that information. The UK might take a lead in pressing for the development of an "Access to Experience" facility of some kind to address this gap. |
| Calls upon all Contracting Parties to designate their national focal point for the Clearing House Mechanism | National focal point identified (JNCC). | | |
| ***Decision III/4. Clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation*** | | | |
| Requests Governments to provide funding for capacity building related to the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism | UK has provided funding in this area, both domestically and elsewhere, e.g. supporting a workshop in Africa. | | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Requests Governments to facilitate regional workshops to obtain a clear view of country and regional-level scientific and technological needs and priorities identified and modalities to deliver information and evaluate national capacities for the implementation of the Convention | UK National Report contains summary analysis of budget and of manpower/skills required.<br><br>UK has participated in several workshops on the CHM and its development at national and international levels. | | |
| Requests all Parties to designate their clearing-house mechanism national focal points and make them operational as soon as possible | A prototype UK CHM has been developed by JNCC, supported by WCMC | Provide timely data for information sharing capacity of CHM. Enhance and update UK's information systems in preparation for the potential interactive function of the CHM. | Each Contracting Party has implemented their CHM in a slightly different way. The UK CHM really splits into three parts. The CHM website developed so far is the "shop window" for UK experience and expertise, the NBN is the mechanism for coordinating information on biodiversity and its conservation, while the BAP website is about implementation of (some of the) action. Consideration might be given to how these different components are related, and how each of them *and other information services* contribute to delivery of information that will support implementation of the CBD in the UK and abroad in a coordinated manner. The UK might consider convening a meeting for UK-based organizations on access to information for implementing the convention, probably organized by JNCC. |
| Requests those Parties with access to the Internet to connect their national clearing-house mechanism homepage to the Secretariat's clearing-house mechanism homepage | Prototype UK-CHM accessible over the Internet, and linked to the Secretariat's CHM homepage. | | |
| ***Decision IV/2. Review of the operations of the clearing-house mechanism*** | | | |
| Requests Governments to provide funding for the development and implementation of the clearing-house mechanism at all levels | Initial funding for development of prototype stage provided. | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recommends that Parties include in their national reports the lessons learned through activities undertaken to implement their national clearing-house mechanisms | | | |
| Recommends that each Party establish a multisectoral and multidisciplinary clearing-house mechanism steering committee or working group at the national level | Not yet established for currently embryonic national CHM. | Establish appropriate body or bodies as national CHM expands and reaches full capacity. | |
| Invites Parties to use the clearing-house mechanism logo | CHM logo used in the prototype UK-CHM | | |
| Recommends that, in building up the content of information in the clearing-house mechanism at the National, subregional and regional levels, country profiles, biodiversity strategy and action plans, appropriate legislation, scientific and technological information and financial sources, among others, be used | Work is underway to collate information for the CHM, despite time and resource constraints. Although the sources mentioned will not be reproduced on the CHM sites, they will be accessible via links found at these sites.<br>Information on the Darwin Initiative is on the UK CHM. | Work is underway to prepare a UK and Overseas Territories country profile and to place biodiversity strategy and action plans on the UK CHM. | Although there is a generally accepted need for coordination between states and the international sharing of information, at a practical level, the precise potential uses of the CHM websites are not yet conclusively established. Guidance is required on what information would be most usefully put on them, and therefore for whom they would be most useful. |
| Requests Parties with access to the Internet to link their national clearing-house mechanism home page to the Secretariat's clearing-house mechanism home page | See Decision III/4 | | |

# Article 19 - Biotechnology

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 19. Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of its Benefits*** | | | |
| Take legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research | See Articles 12 and 15. | | The UK has not made specific provisions for biotechnology research as opposed to research in general. |
| Take all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties | See Articles 15 and 16. | | Access and benefit sharing in relation to biotechnology is dealt with in the same way as other technologies. |
| Consider the need for and modalities of a protocol setting out appropriate procedures in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of any living modified organism resulting from biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity | UK and Netherlands together developed draft International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology as follow-up to Chapter 16 of Agenda 21. These taken forward by UNEP and adopted at global consultation in 1995. Guidelines cover, *inter alia*, possible international controls.<br><br>UK, as Member State of EU, has participated actively throughout the negotiations on a Biosafety Protocol to the Convention. | UK seeks to secure agreement on a Biosafety Protocol to the Convention by the revised deadline of COP-V in May 2000. | |
| Provide any available information about the use and safety regulations required by other Contracting Parties in handling living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology, as well as any available information on the potential adverse impact of the specific organisms concerned | Information about UK regulatory requirements is available on the DETR-ACRE website, and about individual consents to release and market GMOs, including environmental risk assessment. | Will be dealt with in detail in Biosafety Protocol. | |
| ***Decision IV/3. Issues related to biosafety*** | | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Decides that written submissions by Governments of provisions to be included in the Protocol on Biosafety must be received by the Executive Secretary by 1 July 1998 | UK provided input by the required date through EU. | | |
| Calls on Parties to consider providing voluntary contributions to facilitate participation of all Parties in the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the extraordinary meeting of the COP to be held in February 1999 | UK participated in and provided significant support for meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group and for the final meeting in Cartagena, Colombia in February 1999). UK, together with European Commission, hosted international workshop to consider issues related to liability and redress in the context of biosafety in 1998. | | |

# Article 20 - Financial resources

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 20. Financial Resources*** | | | |
| Provide financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention, in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes | Government and public sector funding is available to meet a significant proportion of the activities required for implementing the BAP, and achieving the objectives of the Convention. This is supplemented by a significant amount of funding from non-government organizations working the biodiversity sector.<br><br>Funding is also available under the Heritage Lottery Fund (e.g. extra funding for biodiversity work by English Nature).<br><br>Sponsors are being sought to cover the additional costs of individual species and habitat plans. | | The UK's own institutions could be considered to a globally significant resource (e.g. Kew, NHM), thus funding allocated to them by the UK Government could arguably be recognised as contributions towards the objectives of the CBD. Recognition of the status of these institutions might also attract extra support from abroad.<br><br>To date the UK has perhaps not been as effective as it might be in finding sponsors for the additional costs of individual species and habitat action plans. On the other hand the existence of plans with clear targets has undoubtedly resulted in the availability of new resources.<br><br>Nevertheless, the bottom line is that more resources are required across the whole breadth of the Convention's mandate. |
| Developed country Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed full incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of this Convention and to benefit from its provisions | The Darwin Initiative, set up in response to the Earth Summit, supports projects directly relevant to the implementation of the Convention, concentrating of providing UK experience and expertise to developing countries.<br><br>The UK provides new and additional financial resources from a Global Environmental Assistance budget line administered by DFID but separate from the aid budget. To date £125m has been committed to the GEF making the UK the fifth largest donor. | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Developed countries may provide, and developing countries avail themselves of, financial resources related to the implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels. | DFID supports developing countries through a significant number of bilateral projects with conservation and sustainable use objectives.<br><br>FCO also supports environmental projects in both developing countries and the overseas territories. DFID is in the process of establishing a fund from the Global Environmental Assistance line which will provide new and additional financial resources for biodiversity projects in the Overseas Territories. | Continue ongoing programmes, seeking new partners, new opportunities and new sources of funding as appropriate and building on previous experience. | |
| Take full account of the specific needs and special situation of least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology. | Existing programmes take all of these factors into account. | | |
| Take into consideration the special conditions resulting from the dependence on, distribution and location of, biological diversity within developing country Parties, in particular small island States. | Existing programmes take all of these factors into account. | | |
| Consider special situation of developing countries, including those that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi- arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas. | Existing programmes take all of these factors into account. | | |

| ***Decision III/6. Additional financial resources*** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urges all funding institutions, including bilateral donors, to strive to make their activities more supportive of the Convention | UK is active in various bilateral and multilateral funding sources. | | |
| Urges developed country Parties to cooperate in the development of standardized information on their financial support for the objectives of the Convention, and submit this information in their national reports | Information provided in National Report as requested, and is also provided to OECD. | Provide further information in next national report and any intermediate reports as appropriate. | |

# Article 21 - Financial mechanism

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 21. Financial Mechanism*** | | | |
| Parties shall guide and review the operations of the trust fund through the Conference of the Parties | UK plays a significant and proactive role in GEF. | | It has been suggested that mechanisms be developed to provide more systematic information to the GEF and to the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to assist them in setting priorities and in reviewing GEF project proposals. |
| Parties shall consider strengthening existing financial institutions to provide financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity | UK has been active to ensure that the main international financial institutions support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. | | |
| ***Decision III/7. Guidelines for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism*** | | | |
| Provide information on experiences gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism (from the annex) | UK provides information on its own experiences as an outsider with interests in some GEF projects. | | |

# Article 22 - Other international conventions

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 22. Relationship with other international conventions*** | | | |
| The rights and obligations of any contracting party deriving from any existing international agreement are not affected by the provisions of this convention except where the exercise of those rights and obligations would cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity.<br><br>**[Note that the actions covered here do not derive directly from the text]** | Full account is taken of the UK's commitments to other related conventions and agreements (Bern, Bonn, OSPAR, CITES, EC Directives and Regulations, and so on).<br><br>As an active party to all these agreements the UK is playing a leading role in encouraging cooperation and synergy so as to maximize effectiveness whilst minimizing any potential duplication, also there are a number of specific actions which may lead to integration. | | The UK should continue to take an active role promoting co-operation between international agreements leading to increased harmonisation and strategy. |
| ***Decision III/21. Relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance*** | | | |
| Urges the Parties to ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats, are fully incorporated into national strategies, plan and programmes to preserve biological diversity | The UK actively participates in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, the Bern Convention, the Bonn Convention and the EC Directives on birds and habitats, all of which are concerned with wetlands and migratory species and their habitats.<br><br>The number of Ramsar sites in the Overseas Territories is currently being added to.. | | The UK lead in developing a national implementation strategy for the Ramsar Convention has been used as a model for other signatories to adopt. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calls upon the national focal points of the CBD, and the competent authorities of the Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention and CITES to cooperate in the implementation of these conventions at the national level to avoid duplication | There are mechanisms for discussion and information exchange between the various focal points and competent authorities, perhaps most closely between the CITES and Bonn conventions, both in the same part of DETR. The UK's national focal point for the CBD is DETR.<br><br>For example, JNCC has reviewed the reporting requirements of Ramsar and Natura 2000 in order to ensure Common Standards Monitoring by country agencies can provide the information required. | | Further steps should be taken to harmonise activities within the UK, particularly in the light of devolution, where national level coordination of response to international obligations is necessary. Implementation within the Overseas Territories similarly requires close coordination.<br><br>The UK should also continue to press for increased harmonization between the secretariats, both in terms of programmes of work, and information management and reporting. |
| Invites contracting parties to relevant biological diversity-related conventions to explore opportunities for accessing funding through the Global Environment Facility for relevant projects | UK Government through DFID has provided funding for pre-project activities leading to GEF funded projects. | | |
| ***Decision IV/15. Relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance*** | | | |
| Requests Parties to submit information to the Executive Secretary on; current threats to biodiversity from tourism, strategies demonstrating where tourism and the conservation of biodiversity are mutually supportive, the involvement of stakeholders, collaborative efforts at regional and subregional levels, planning for tourism that incorporates consideration of the CBD, and policies and activities which are supportive of Agenda 21's aims | UK National Report and BAP both describe threats to biodiversity in general terms, and both are available to the CBD Secretariat. Local Agenda 21 and LBAPs deal with local environmental issues such as recreation and tourism, as do a number of specific studies, but this information has not been made available.<br><br>Agro-tourism is playing an increasing role in the conservation of biodiversity in rural areas. | | As there is a wide range of information that the UK could provide, it is worth assessing in more detail exactly what the CBD Secretariat requires, and in what form it should be provided. Alternatively, should the UK Government be recommending to the CBD Secretariat that they develop more generic mechanisms for sharing case studies and best practice.<br><br>Note that in respect of tourism and tourism strategies, information on action in the Overseas Territories may be particularly pertinent. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Invites Parties to provide information to the Executive Secretary on the biodiversity-related activities of the CSD such as: a review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, oceans, seas and freshwater resources, consumption and production patterns | UK has reported on specific activities that have fed into the CSD process. E.g. Marine Biodiversity workshop in Jamaica, October 1998, London Oceans workshop, December 1998. | | |

# Article 23 - Conference of the Parties

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 23. Conference of the Parties*** | | | |
| Participation in the Conference of the Parties | A UK delegation has participated fully in all Conferences of the Parties to date. | A UK delegation is scheduled to attend the intersessional (June 1999) and Expert Panel (October 1999) and the next Conference of the Parties in 2000. | |
| ***Decision I/6. Financing of and budget for the Convention*** | | | |
| Urges all the Parties to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund promptly | Done on time | | |
| ***Decision I/9. Medium-term programme of work of the Conference of the Parties*** | | | |
| Calls upon developed countries to contribute voluntary funds to assist the ad hoc group of experts considering development of a protocol on safe transfer, handling and use of any living modified organism resulting from biotechnology | UK has provided funds for developing country participation in development of the Biosafety Protocol. | | |
| ***Decision I/11. Preparation for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties*** | | | |
| Invites developed countries to make voluntary contributions to fund regional and sub-regional meetings to prepare for the COP, and to facilitate the participation of the developing countries in such meetings as well as in the meetings convened under the Convention | UK has made significant contributions. | | |
| ***Decision II/20. Financing of and budget for the Convention*** | | | |
| Urges all the Parties to pay promptly their contributions to the Trust Fund | Done on time | | |
| ***Decision III/22. Medium-term programme of work for 1996-1997*** | | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Invites Parties to submit by 31 March 1997 their views to the Executive Secretary on the operations of the Conference of the Parties, the programme of work for 1995-1997, and longer-term work programmes | UK submitted its own views to the Secretariat, hosted a workshop in January 1998 where it played an active role in discussions and presenting the chairman's conclusions to the CBD Secretariat in time for COP IV. | UK to participate in further consideration of review of operations at the intersessional (June 1999) and at COP5. | |
| ***Decision III/24. Budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity*** | | | |
| Urges all parties to pay promptly their contributions to the Trust Fund | Done on time | | |
| Decides that all Parties should be invited to contribute to two special trust funds established to receive additional voluntary contributions, and to support participation of Parties in the Convention process | UK has made contributions to special trust funds. | | |
| Invites Parties to forward proposed decisions to the Executive Secretary in sufficient time for circulation at least three weeks in advance of the COP | Done on time | | |
| Invites Parties to notify the Executive Secretary of additional items for the provisional agenda at least six weeks before the COP | Done on time | | |
| ***Decision IV/17. Programme budget for the biennium 1999-2000*** | | | |
| Invites Parties to note that contributions are due 1 January each year and to pay promptly in full | Contributions made on time and in full. | | |
| Urges Parties to contribute to the special trust funds | Contributions made on time and in full. | | |

# Article 24 - Secretariat

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Article 24. Secretariat* | | | |
| Direct support | A consultant was seconded from the UK (RBG Kew) to support the work of the CBD secretariat in this area. | | |

# Article 25 - SBSTTA

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 25. Subsidiary body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*** | | | |
| Participation | UK has participated actively and fully in all meetings. | UK is scheduled to attend SBSTTA in 1999. | |

# Article 26 - Reports

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Article 26. Reports*** | | | |
| Each contracting party shall present reports on measures that it has taken for the implementation of the Convention, and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention. | National Report and other reports, including the first and second Darwin Report submitted as required. | | |
| ***Decision II/1. Report of the first meeting of SBSTTA*** | | | |
| Calls upon the international community to make contributions for the preparation and publication of the first global biodiversity outlook, to be issued in 1997 | | | |
| ***Decision II/8. Preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention*** | | | |
| Encourages Parties within their national reports to identify priority issues specifically related to those components of biological diversity under threat | This was covered in the national report. | | |
| ***Decision II/17. Form and intervals of national reports by parties*** | | | |
| Decides that the first national reports by Parties will focus on the measures taken for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, as well as the information available in national country studies on biological diversity, and provides suggested guidelines | The UK national report focuses on biodiversity assessment and implementation of Article 6, as requested. | | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Decides that Parties shall submit their national reports in one of the working languages of the Conference of the Parties and, for the benefit of others, encourages Parties to also make available their reports electronically and, where possible, on the Internet | The UK national report is made available in English, and is available on the Internet | | An on-line *State of Environment* report for England and Wales is maintained by the Environment Agency, while the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency provides Internet access to the *1996 State of the Environment Report.* The UK report to UNCED is also available on-line. Given the interrelated nature of the three reports (implementation of CBD, state of environment reporting and implementation of Agenda 21), the UK may wish to press for greater harmonization as has already been called for by the CSD, and more towards integrated national reporting for the UK. |
| Urges all Parties to submit their first national reports to the Secretariat no later than 30 June 1997 | UK National Report was submitted in December 1997. | | |
| Urges Parties to submit their first national reports on time, with the date of submission being set at 1 January 1998 | UK National Report was submitted before this deadline. | | |
| Encourages Parties to submit final national reports by 31 December 1998 | UK National Report was submitted before the previous deadline. | | |
| Information contained in national reports should include a report on the progress of the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, and on lessons learned, including gaps in national capacity for policy research, along with technical and financial requirements for meeting needs identified in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the use of nationally developed indicators | This was covered in the national report. | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urges developed country Parties to include in their national reports information on their financial support for the objectives of the Convention | Figures are included in UK National Report (not exact sums) | | Guidance is lacking on where to draw the line between CBD and non-CBD expenditure, which would make any attempt at comparison between Contracting parties or even between different years reports potentially meaningless. The UK may wish to further explore with the CBD Secretariat why such information is useful, and work with them in designing mechanisms that will then deliver useful information. |

# Decision IV/4 - Inland water ecosystems

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision IV/4. Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use*** | | | |
| Urges Parties and Governments to include information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and reports to the CSD and to consider including inland water biological diversity issues at future CSD meetings | UK's report to sixth session of CSD contains appropriate information (e.g. Policy and Practice for Protection of Floodplains, River Habitat Survey, National Environment Programme for Water Companies). | | |
| Urges Parties and Governments to include inland water biological diversity considerations in their participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water | A significant number of sites have been notified as wetlands of international importance (Ramsar Convention), and many *Natura 2000* sites (EC Directives) are notified for wetlands and migratory species.<br><br>UK water companies are working on the creation of their own action plans (e.g. Anglian Water Action Plan).<br><br>There is increased agreement between the CBD and Ramsar, intended to avoid any duplication. | A programme, aimed at listing further Ramsar sites, is to be developed. It will particularly focus on those interests which are currently under represented in the list and also on sites in the Overseas Territories. | The need to minimize the potential for duplication of effort between Ramsar and CBD implementation is clear. This is particularly so when considering the "wise use" aspect of the Ramsar Convention. Perhaps further consideration needs to be given within the UK to joint programmes of work and reporting in this area. |
| Urges Parties when requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems form the GEF to give priority to identifying important areas for conservation, preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans, and investigating processes contributing to biodiversity loss | Not applicable | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recommends that Parties adopt a programme of work specified in an annex to the decision | See commentary | See commentary | Note that although the programme of work includes a wide range of specific actions requiring national action, these have not been specifically reviewed here because of the time available. DETR should consider carrying out a review of relevant action in this topic so as to be able to ensure that all necessary action has been taken. |

# Decisions II/10 and IV/5 - Marine and coastal ecosystems

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision II/10. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity*** | | | |
| Encourages Parties to establish and/or strengthen institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems, plans and strategies for marine and coastal areas, and their integration within national development plans | The Government's flood and coastal policy specifically aims to encourage environmentally sound and sustainable schemes and to ensure that flood and coastal defences are constructed and managed in ways which protect and conserve environmental assets.<br><br>Coastal areas receive a significant degree of protection under planning law, although development pressure on some areas is high, and planning law only extends to the low water mark. Inter-sectoral coordination is being promoted through the Government's Inter-Departmental Group on Coastal Policy.<br><br>Under national legislation, Sea Fisheries Committees and other regulatory bodies must ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives. MAFF has produced a document giving guidance to these bodies.<br><br>Coastal Fora exist for Scotland and England (and for Wales subject to approval by the new assembly) but not for Northern Ireland.<br><br>Regulations providing for the protection of marine protected areas (for European marine sites) are now in place. However, there is currently a dispute in the UK as to whether the Habitats Directive extends out to 12nm (DETR's position) or 200nm (the NGO position).<br><br>New EU regulations should help integrate biodiversity elements into the CFP. | At least 30 marine sites will have some form of protected area status by 2004.<br><br>There are some 30-40 species and habitat action plans for marine issues. Some lead partners have already been identified (such as the Sea Mammal Research Unit for cetaceans), but a number remain to be identified. Resources are being sought, but given the number of plans this is not going to be easy.<br><br>EN and the Environment Agency will be receiving funding support from the LIFE/Nature programme for a project, "Living with the Sea". The project will develop Coastal Habitat Management Plans which would aim to provide the framework for site management over a 50-year time frame in areas at risk from erosion and sea level rise. | There is concern that action to establish protected areas in the marine environment is proceeding too slowly.<br><br>There is no exclusive maritime authority in the UK, and it is thought by some that this is unfortunate given the thrust of the CBD Decision. Perceived inadequacies in the current situation include: lack of integrated planning; no legislative framework; sectoral approach; gaps in protection.<br><br>The Precautionary approach is progressively being implemented in fisheries management under the CFP.<br><br>The costs involved in monitoring and conducting research into biodiversity beyond the intertidal level is reflected in the limited knowledge about this area available and the resulting limited efforts being undertaken. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Marine/coastal biodiversity action plans have been developed but not yet published (due summer 1999). | | |
| Anticipates input from Parties to the Executive Secretary for formulating advice and future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity | Included in National Report | | The input made in the national report is probably insufficient, but it is also not entirely clear what information is required by the Executive Secretary, and whether input is still required. |
| Parties are encouraged to undertake and exchange information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management (from the Annex) | The UK Government has recently published an account of 60 coastal Ramsar sites, describing the problems faced and conservation measures taken for each one.<br><br>The Interdepartmental Group on Coastal Policy is responsible for three Coastal Fora, covering England, Scotland and Wales, bringing together stakeholders and disseminating advice and information.<br><br>UK is in the process of publishing reports on sites in the Overseas Territories. These sites encompass habitats such as mangroves.<br><br>A report was submitted to the CBD Secretariat on marine and coastal biodiversity, with examples. | | While the publication on Ramsar sites is a useful one, it is not strictly speaking an example of integrated marine and coastal area management. Due to limitations of national legislation, Ramsar site designation does not extend below low water. Also, the objectives of Ramsar sites in the UK are nature conservation rather than sustainable resource use. Protected areas such as Ramsar sites, SACs, and so on should be nested within a framework and programme of integrated marine and coastal area management.<br><br>It is noted that of the 60 Ramsar sites covered by the UK government publication, no Overseas Territories sites are included. Currently there are two Ramsar sites in the Overseas Territories covered by the CBD (in the Cayman Islands and BVI) and eight and in those not covered by the CBD (seven sites in Bermuda and one in East Caicos). |
| Parties should enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and sea-ranching activities (from the Annex) | | | |
| ***Decision IV/5. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, including a programme of work*** | | | |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urges Parties to contribute to the implementation of specific elements of a programme of work specified in an annex to the decision | See commentary | See commentary | Note that although the programme of work includes a wide range of specific actions requiring national action, these have not been specifically reviewed here because of the time available. DETR should consider carrying out a review of relevant action in this topic so as to be able to ensure that all necessary action has been taken. |
| Urges Parties, when requesting assistance through the GEF, to propose projects which promote the implementation of the programme of work | Not applicable | | |

# Decisions III/11 and IV/6 - Agricultural biological diversity

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision III/11. Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity*** | | | |
| Requests Parties to identify and assess relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level and to report back to the Conference of the Parties, suggesting an indicative list of thematic areas in annex | | | It is not clear from the information currently available what steps the UK is taking to deal with this issue. Further review with appropriate individuals is required. |
| Requests Parties to identify issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level and to report back to the Conference of the Parties | | | It is not clear from the information currently available what steps the UK is taking to deal with this issue. Further review with appropriate individuals is required. |
| Encourages the Parties to use and/or study and develop methods and indicators to monitor the impacts of agricultural development projects, including the intensification and extensification of production systems, on biological diversity and to promote their application | The National Countryside Monitoring Scheme (NCMS) implemented, uses aerial photography for systematic study of land cover change.<br>An extensive Countryside Survey 2000 is underway, with results to be published at the end of 2000. Work on indicators is similarly underway (see above).<br>MAFF is developing, through its research and development programme, monitoring procedures for its agri-environment programmes in order to evaluate their contributions to those habitat action plans where they play an important role.<br>The Environmentally Sensitive Areas monitoring programme is currently under review. | MAFF has placed a three year contract to monitor the effectiveness of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in meeting its objectives. This will include a survey of lowland heathland, results of which will be reported in 1999. | |
| Invites countries to share experiences addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity | The NCMS is described briefly in the National Report, and MAFF has made presentations to international meetings on its agri-environmental policy and practice. | | It is debatable whether the steps taken to share experience described here are adequate. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourages interested Parties to conduct case studies on the two initial issues identified by SBSTTA, pollinators and soil micro-organisms in agriculture | | NERC is initiating a major project on soil biota (see Article 7). | |
| Recommends that Parties establish or enhance mechanisms for increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components | Schemes established e.g. Tir Cymen scheme, and Coed Cymru scheme, free advice available to farmers on conservation opportunities and converting to organic. | | Note that it is particularly important to raise the awareness of farmers in this area. |
| Encourages Parties to develop national strategies, programmes and plans which ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components | UK Government (MAFF) has established various instruments, e.g. Government Strategy for Alternative Crops, Pesticide Minimisation Policy, and various schemes e.g., TIBRE scheme.<br><br>DFID supports a number of activities in developing countries consistent with the GPA. | A large number of lead agencies (including MAFF) are involved in the Lowland Heathland Habitat Action Plan which aims to meet objectives set by the UKBAP such as; encouraging the re-establishment by 2005 of a further 6,000 ha of heathland. MAFF's agri-environmental policy is a key delivery mechanism for these objectives. | |
| Encourages Parties to promote transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions, in conformity with the ecosystem or integrated land use approach | MAFF is seeking further reform of the CAP in order to support the rural economy and enhance the environment.<br><br>MAFF has produced Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water Air and Soil and a Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings (The Green Code).<br><br>Some insecticides have a statutory 'buffer zone' restriction to prevent spraying of the crop margin, which then acts as a refuge for non-target organisms. | MAFF aims to ensure that CAP reform will mitigate those environmental problems encouraged by current subsidy levels and that a proportion of the savings made by reforming these subsidies will be directed to new or reinforced measures to enhance the environment. | CAP needs to be changed before this can be achieved.<br><br>Careful consideration must be given to the WTO compatibility of all agri-environment support measures, e.g. in relation to subsidies and labelling requirements. WTO negotiations in agriculture must make provision for environment support payments in order to meet biodiversity conservation objectives. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Encourages parties to promote the use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity | Government (MAFF) promotes and funds free advice through the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and provides a wide range of incentives through its agri-environment schemes.<br><br>The Countryside Agency promotes a range of schemes designed to assist farmers in habitat maintenance and creation on parts of their land not in production. | | |
| Encourages parties to promote mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity | Government encourages the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group which operates at country and regional levels.<br><br>Local co-ordination arrangements are in place to enable local partners to contribute to the targeting and development of MAFF's agri-environment schemes. Regional Agri-environment Consultation Groups consider the contribution of these schemes at a more strategic level.<br><br>Local or regional BAPs also play an important role. | | |
| Encourages Parties to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources (adopted by the fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources) in accordance with their national capacities, and endorses its priorities and policy recommendations | DFID supports a number of activities in developing countries consistent with the GPA. | | |
| Draws the attention of Parties to their responsibilities for providing financial support and incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity important to agriculture | UK Government invested £25m in agri-environmental research and development and supporting agri-environmental schemes in 95/96. The EU and OECD also provide financial support in this area. | | |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision IV/6. Agricultural biological diversity*** | | | |
| Suggests that Governments join efforts to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management | EU Rural Development Regulation agreed. UK participates in Pan European Biodiversity and Landscape Development Strategy.<br>Taken account of in DFID policy on GMOs in developing countries. | DFID will undertake a study on the possible impacts in developing countries. | |
| Invites Parties to conduct case-studies based on socio-economic and ecological analyses of different land-use management options and to provide such case-studies to the Secretariat | Nationally MAFF's research and development programme examines the effects of arable management practices on biodiversity through a variety of projects.<br>Internationally the UK is involved with several case-studies in this area through DFID and Darwin Initiative funded projects (e.g. In-situ conservation of agrobiodiversity: Beans in Southern Tanzania, Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in situ) | | The development of case studies for the UK, and perhaps particularly for Scotland, might be useful |
| Invites Parties to conduct case-studies on soil biota in agriculture and to provide them to the Executive Secretary for compilation and consideration by the SBSTTA | | | It is not clear from the information currently available what steps the UK is taking to deal with this issue. Further review with appropriate individuals is required. |
| Requests Parties to provide input on the development and application of methodologies for assessment of agricultural biological diversity and tools for identification and monitoring | Nationally MAFF is developing monitoring procedures for agricultural biodiversity.<br>Internationally the UK is conducting studies through DFID and Darwin Initiative projects and providing input (e.g. Methods of Economic and Environmental Assessment of the on-site Impacts of Soil Erosion and Conservation - A Case Study of Smallholder Agriculture in Sri Lanka). | | |
| Urges Parties to consider the precautionary approach in the application of new technology for the control of plant gene expression | Taken account of in DFID policy on GMOs in developing countries. | DFID will undertake a study on the possible impacts in developing countries. | |

# Decisions II/9 and IV/7 - Forests

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision II/9. Forests and biological diversity*** | | | |
| Invites all Parties to contribute to the preparation of the documents on forests and biological diversity to be prepared by the Executive Secretary for the International Panel on Forests | | | |
| Invites all Parties to include expertise on forest biodiversity in their delegations to the International Panel on Forests | The UK is represented at the IPF by the Forestry Commission, and participates fully in the meetings. | | |
| ***Decision IV/7. Forest biological diversity*** | | | |
| Urges Parties to collaborate in carrying out tasks identified in a programme of work annexed to the decision | See commentary.<br><br>The UK through the Forestry Commission is involved in several research projects supported by the EU which address issues in the Work Programme, in particular on the development of indicators of forest biodiversity and on forest reserves. | See commentary | Note that although the programme of work includes a wide range of specific actions requiring national action, these have not been specifically reviewed here because of the time available. DETR should consider carrying out a review of relevant action in this topic so as to be able to ensure that all necessary action has been taken. |

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calls upon Parties to integrate forest biological diversity considerations in their participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with forest biological diversity | UK cooperates with EU through INTERREG programme.<br>UK signed up to Helsinki Process. The UK Forestry Standard adopted after Helsinki incorporates guidelines for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management.<br>The G8 members at Denver (June 97) reiterated their commitment to implement the proposals for action contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and agreed to support a practical action programme. The UK Government decided to publish its own programme at the Birmingham Summit in May 1998. This programme covered monitoring and assessment, national forest programmes, protected areas, the private sector and illegal logging. | | |
| Urges Parties to give high priority to allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity | Incentives are provided for a number of relevant activities within the UK, partly with EC financing (e.g. Woodland Grant Scheme funding for projects targeted at enhancing the biodiversity value of existing woodland and challenge funded grants for semi-natural and new native woodlands). | | |
| Invites Parties, when requesting assistance through the GEF, to propose projects which promote the implementation of the programme of work | Not applicable | Not applicable | |

# Decision IV/1 [part] - Taxonomy

| | *Actions Underway* | *Actions Proposed* | *Commentary* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Decision IV/1. Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA, and instructions by the COP to SBSTTA* [PART]** | | | |
| Encourages Governments to make available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information | The UK taxonomy strategy, "the web of life" highlights the need for improved communication of information (e.g. via Internet). It also sets out future needs for and potential sources of funding.<br>UK hosted a meeting of the international group planning the Global Taxonomy Initiative. | OECD proposal for GBIF which, *inter alia*, would make information from collections available. | Systematics and taxonomy are seen as a poorly resourced and "unfashionable" area, and potential taxonomists are drawn off into higher prestige and better resourced areas. Career prospects and funding for taxonomy need to be greatly improved. |
| Encourages Governments to develop bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly for those dealing with poorly known organisms | UK herbaria and museums run training and education courses at all levels from primary to Ph.D. A third of graduates from three recently started masters courses come from overseas. | | Change research council funding provisions for systematics institutions and improve long-term career opportunities for taxonomists. |
| Suggests that Parties should invest, on a long-term basis, in the development of appropriate infrastructure for their national collections | The UK's internationally significant collections are housed in buildings that represent the legacy of investments made when taxonomy was in its infancy. The condition and standards of this infrastructure reflect this. | | Collection, storage and maintenance is now well short of world best practice. Significant parts of the collection are at great risk from fire and various forms of deterioration. The sheer scale of the problem makes remedial action difficult and expensive. A long-term strategy needs to be developed and implemented. |
| Suggests that Parties should encourage partnerships between institutions in developed and developing countries so as to promote scientific collaboration and infrastructure rationalization | UK is encouraging and fostering inter-institutional partnerships through a range of mechanisms (e.g. support, training and the creation of database systems). | | |
| Suggests that Parties should adopt internationally agreed levels of collection housing that ensure protection of collections and the well-being of all people working on and accessing collections | UK has been fundamental in developing best practice but does not have the resources to re-house its collections in appropriate modern facilities. | | While the UK is helping other countries to build first class taxonomic facilities, it faces large challenges in implementing best practice internally. UK collections are very large, and resources very limited. |

| | ***Actions Underway*** | ***Actions Proposed*** | ***Commentary*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Suggests that Parties should provide training programmes in taxonomy at different educational levels, including vocational, technical and academic training | Training programmes are offered through a range of research institutions such as NHM and Kew, some of it supported through the Darwin Initiative. | | |
| Suggests that Parties should utilize information systems to maximum effect in taxonomic institutions | Information management strategies are being developed or are under way, and some highly innovative mapping and analysis systems have been developed. However, the large scale of the challenge means that progress will be slow. | | |
| Suggests that Parties should report on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres | The UK has a number of institutions, several of which are world leaders. There are no immediate plans to define national reference centres. | | Existing coordinating mechanisms could be strengthened to maximize potential synergies arising from better cooperation. |
| Suggests that Parties should make information housed in collections available in countries of origin | UK institutions are collaborating with donor countries in the repatriation of data whenever opportunities arise and resources allow.<br><br>Much has been done to provide appropriate capacity building and training in countries of origin under the Darwin Initiative and to strengthen the UK's capacities. (E.g. developing a central collections database for access worldwide). | Continue with ongoing work. | The very large collections and current limited resources mean that priorities need to be set. Guidance from the CBD as to its priorities would be welcomed. |
| Suggests, in Annex, a list of actions Parties should consider covering institutional capacities and centres of expertise, appropriate areas for international funding, training programmes and methods, a register of experts and workshops | Many of these actions are currently under way. | | Note that although the annex includes a wide range of specific actions requiring national action, these have not been specifically reviewed here because of the time available. DETR should consider carrying out a review of relevant action in this topic so as to be able to ensure that all necessary action has been taken. |

# List of Abbreviations

**AONB** - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
**BAP** - Biodiversity Action Plan
**BBSRC** - Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
**BCIS** – Biological Conservation Information System
**BGCI** - Botanic Gardens Conservation International
**BSE** – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
**BTCV** - British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
**CABI** – CAB International
**CAP** – Common Agricultural Policy
**CBD** - Convention on Biological Diversity
**CBI** - Confederation of British Industry
**CC** – Countryside Commission.(now part of the Countryside Agency)
**CCW** – Countryside Council for Wales
**CDCIR** - Community Documentation Centre on Industrial Risk
**CEE** – Council for Environmental Education
**CFP** – Common Fisheries Policy
**CGIAR** - Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
**CHM - CBD** Clearing-House Mechanism
**CITES** - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
**CONSSO** - Committee of North Sea Senior Officials
**COP** - Conference of the Parties
**CSD** - Commission on Sustainable Development
**CSR** – Comprehensive Spending Review
**DETR** - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
**DfEE** – Department for Education and Employment
**DFID** - Department for International Development
**DGXI** – EC Directorate-General for the Environment, Nuclear Security and Civil Protection
**DTI** - Department for Trade and Industry
**EC** – European Commission
**ECCO** - European Culture Collections Organisation
**EEA** - European Environmental Agency
**EHS** – Environmental Heritage Service (Northern Ireland)
**EIA** - Environmental Impact Assessment
**EIONET - EEA** European Information Observation Network
**EMAS** – Eco Management and Audit Scheme
**EN** – English Nature
**ESA** - Environmentally Sensitive Area
**ETC/NC** – EEA European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation
**EU** - European Union
**EUNIS** - EEA European Nature Information System
**FCO** - Foreign and Commonwealth Office
**GBIF** - Global Biodiversity Information Facility
**GEF** - Global Environment Facility
**GMO** - Genetically Modified Organism
**GTI** - Global Taxonomy Initiative
**HAP** - Habitat Action Plan
**HMG** – Her Majesty's Government
**IFD** - Information for Development
**IPF** – Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
**IPPC** – Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
**IUCN** – The World Conservation Union
**IUPGRFA** – International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
**JEMU** - Joint Environmental Markets Unit
**JNCC** - Joint Nature Conservation Committee
**JRC** - Joint Research Centre, based in Ispra, Italy.
**LBAP** – Local Biodiversity Action Plan
**MAFF** - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
**MAHB** - Major Accident Hazards Bureau
**MARS** - Major Accident Reporting System
**MCA** - Maritime and Coastguard Agency
**NBN** – National Biodiversity Network
**NCC** - Nature Conservancy Council
**NCMS** - National Countryside Monitoring Scheme
**NERC** - National Environmental Research Council
**NGO** - Non-Governmental Organisation
**NHM** - Natural History Museum
**NPPG** – National Policy Planning Note
**OSPAR** - Commission and convention for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic
**PAN** – Planning Advice Note
**PGR** – Plant Genetic Resources
**PPG** – Planning Policy Guidance Note

**PPS** – Planning Policy Statement
**RIIA** - Royal Institute of International Affairs
**SAP** - Species Action Plan
**SBSTTA - CBD** Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
**SEA** - Strategic Environmental Assessment
**SIDS** - Small Island Developing States
**SNH** – Scottish Natural Heritage
**SSSI** - Site of Special Scientific Interest
**TIBRE** - Targeted Inputs for a Better Rural Environment
**TPI** - Technology Partnership Initiative
**UKBAP** – UK Biodiversity Action Plan
**UKPIA** - United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association
**UNCLOS** – United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
**UN/ECE** – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
**UNEP** - United Nations Environment Programme
**UPOV** – International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (Depositary for International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants)
**WCMC** – World Conservation Monitoring Centre
**WGS** – Woodland Grant Scheme
**WRI** - World Resources Institute
**WTO** - World Trade Organisation
**WWT** - Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

# Sources


**Reports and publications**

The United Kingdom National Report on Biodiversity
First Darwin Report, Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species, DETR
Second Darwin Report, Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species, DETR
"the web of life" A Strategy for Systematic Biology in the United Kingdom, UK Systematics Forum.
Marine Pollution Control Unit (and update sheet), Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Biodiversity, produced by the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association
British Government Panel on Sustainable Development, 1st, 2nd and 4th Reports.
*Convention on Biological Diversity*, Text and Annexes, UNEP.
*A Call to Action*, Decisions and Ministerial Statement from the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP.
*The Biodiversity Agenda*, Decisions from the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP.
*A Programme for Change*, Decisions from the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP.
*A Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity*, Glowka, L, et al., (1994), IUCN Gland and Cambridge.
*Biodiversity Challenge, an agenda for conservation in the UK*, A plan for action from the voluntary conservation sector, 1st (1993) and 2nd (1995) editions.
Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report, Volume 1: Meeting the Rio Challenge, Volume 2: Action Plans, 1995.
*Sustainable Development, The UK Strategy*, 1994
*Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan* (1994).
Anglian Water Plc, 1998 Environmental Activity Report.
Forestry Practice Guide 7, *The Management of Semi-Natural Woodlands*, Forestry Practice Division, The Forestry Authority.

**Unpublished material**

CBD – UK Strategy for COP4 – COP5 Intersessional, Jonathan Tillson
CBD – Progress with COP4 – COP5 Intersessional Work, Jonathan Tillson
The Wildlife Trusts - Conservation Plan 1998 - 2005
Environment Sub-committee List of Memoranda, Multilateral Environment Agreement submitted to the of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs, printed 31st March 1999.
Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Draft 1999 – 2004 Strategic Plan.

**Websites consulted**

| | |
|---|---|
| Biodiversity Secretariat Website | http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ukbg/body.htm |
| Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau International | http://www.cabi.org/ |
| Convention on Biological Diversity | http://www.biodiv.org/ |
| Countryside Agency | http://www.countryside.gov.uk/ |
| Department for Education and Employment | http://www.open.gov.uk/dfee/dfeehome.htm |
| Department for International Development | http://www.dfid.gov.uk |
| Department for International Development -Natural Resources Division Website, Narsis Database | http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/cgi-bin/dbtcgi.exe |
| Department of Trade and Industry | http://www.dti.gov.uk/ |
| Environment Agency | http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/ |
| EU Joint Research Centre | http://www.jrc.it/jrc/index.asp |
| European Union (Europa) | http://www.europa.eu.int/ |
| G8 Action Programme on Forests | http://birmingham.g8summit.gov.uk/forfin/forests.shtml |
| Joint Nature Conservation Committee | http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food | http://www.maff.gov.uk/ |
| National Biodiversity Network | http://www.nbn.org.uk/ |
| Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development | http//www.oecd.org/ |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | http://www.sepa.org.uk/ |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | http://www.snh.org.uk/ |
| Scottish Office | http://www.scotland.gov.uk |
| The Patent Office | http://www.patent.gov.uk/ |
| UN DESA System-wide Web Site on National Implementation of the Rio Commitments | http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/countr/uk |
| Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust | http://www.greenchannel.com/wwt/ |
| Wildlife Trust | http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/ |

**People consulted**

Steve Atkins, SNH
Linda Brown, DFID
Richard Chapman, DETR
Jane Clark, SNH
Kate Cook, DETR
Roger Crofts, SNH
Jane Dalgleish, Scottish Office
Roger Daniels, NERC/ITE
Bob Davies, DETR
Lisa Dobbins, Welsh Office
Graham Donald, DETR
Michael Dudley, Forestry Commission
John Everitt, Wildlife Trust
John Faulkner, DOE (NI)
Ian Gauld, NHM
Paul Jefferiss, RSPB
Martin Jenkins, WCMC
Alistair Jones, Forestry Commission
Simon Lyster, Wildlife Trust
Ruth Mackenzie, FIELD
Helen Marquard, DETR
Dorian Moss, NERC/ITE
Ian Orr, FCO
Gordon Patterson, Forestry Commission
Matt Phillips, FOE
David Pritchard, RSPB
David Rae, RBGE
Frances Radcliffe, MAFF
John Ramsay, Scottish Office
Valerie Richardson, DETR
Joanna Robertson, CCW
Richard Rogers, EHS (NI)
Michael Scott, SNH
Martin Smith, MAFF
Dan Sweeney, DTI
Jonathan Tillson, DETR
Malcolm Vincent, JNCC
Steve Walters, British Council
Niall Watson, WWF

Sara Webster, DETR
Richard Weyl, DOE (NI)
Gwyn Williams, RSPB
Sharon Wort, MCA